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Saipan Tribune

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LEGEND OF THE OCEAN

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INOS DELIVERS FIRST SOCA

'Our economy is recovering, but more needs to be done'

JAYSON CAMACHO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos delivers his 2014 State of the Commonwealth Address at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday. Joining him is U.S Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, inset, who delivered his remarks after Inos.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» 'We cannot sue our way to prosperity'

More than 16 months since his unprecedented rise to power, Gov. Eloy S. Inos reported to the public yesterday that the CNMI economy is "recovering" and could reach $1.3 billion in business activity this year alone, while also pointing at litigation and other objections that kept his administration from restoring retirees' 25 percent cut.

In his 53-minute, 32-page State of the Commonwealth Address, the governor also spoke about a safer CNMI although "much work still remains," and pointed to improvements in public services and programs such as health, utilities, and education.

"That's what making it happen is all about," he said at one point, about a $1.3 billion projected economic activity this year—an increase of $200 million from last year.

Throughout his address interspersed with 20 rounds of applause, Inos made no mention of the word "casino," which has become one of his administration's major revenue-generating measures but has been the subject of litigation and other objections.

See ECONOMY on Page 4

Kilili reaches 5 top goals and more

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Delegate slams anti-immigration reform resolution that makes CNMI 'look a little foolish'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) spelled out his five high-priority goals starting out in Congress, all of which have been attained—from getting back the CNMI's submerged lands to increased food aid and education funding. Sablan also wished that members of the CNMI Legislature did more research before coming up with an anti-immigration reform resolution that made the islands "look a little foolish" in Washington, D.C.

Sablan, at the invitation of the Legislature, delivered yesterday a 44-minute report on milestones that he and his office have reached since becoming the first and so far only CNMI nonvoting delegate to the U.S. Congress.

See KILILI on Page 4

No fireworks for July 4 celebration. PAGE 6
DPL to remove unpermitted signboards on public lands. PAGE 8

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Local

Tandem Skydive wants 15-year lease extension at airport

A company that once operated a skydiving business on island wants a 15-year extension of its current lease at the airport—a request that did not make it through during yesterday's meeting of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board.

Tandem Skydive Saipan Inc. has 15 years remaining on its lease agreement with the ports authority. Citing the infusion of about $250,000 for its planned hangar at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, the additional lease term is for the anticipated expansion of the company's operation.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Tandem Skydive currently has only cargo operation on island. However, upon completion of its hangar project, the skydiving business is expected to come next for the company.

According to CPA records, Tandem Skydive pay about $1,200 in its monthly lease with the ports authority. The company first obtained a lease agreement with CPA in March 2001, leasing parcels of land consisting of about 4,000 square meters at the Saipan International Airport. Under the lease terms, the company's rental increases by 20 percent every five years.

CPA board member Benigno Sablan moved yesterday to adopt the lease extension proposal endorsed by Tandem Skydive owner John Stewart, who wants a lease extension with the same terms and condition as the original agreement.

If the board will approve the proposal, the company will have a new lease term of 30 years including the remaining 15 years in its current term.

It was learned that the company has been proposing the additional term since February.

"CPA is in dire need to generate revenues…and to continue to defer such action is deferring revenue generation for the airport. We know that Freedom Air is out and there's no other airlines contemplating [to come in]. This one is here. It is committed to build a hangar so it's incumbent of us to approve its proposal [for additional lease]," Sablan told colleagues during yesterday's deliberations.

But Sablan's comments did not move colleagues like vice chair Thomas Kiyu Villagomez, Frances Mafnas, and Michael San Nicolas.

"There's no commitment to build anything up there. They're just merely asking for an extension," observed Villagomez, who pushed for the deferment of the board action pending "clarification and additional" information from Tandem Skydive.

CPA management was instructed yesterday to continue the dialogue with the company until such time all information are provided for board consideration at their next meeting.

"We have to look at this request and the existing lease agreement. I don't just want to jump in and support the extension because the only thing that he will be doing is to put the hangar [at the airport]," said Villagomez.

However, Sablan said that once the skydiving operations resume, BGRT will then kick in for the CPA. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Behind Department of Public Safety
Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

July 1, 2014

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Ironwood Blue Water Homes	04/16/2014 SMS-2014-X-020	80 Unit Multi-Family Housing	Middle Road, Garapan	Major Siting	Approved (06/27/2014)

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

THE
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ITS
RECRUITMENT FAIR FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2014-2015.

Positions needed are:

1. Classroom Teachers for Kinder through 5th for Elementary, Middle School and High School in various content are (English, Science, Math, Technology, Career and Technical Education (Cooperative Education Teachers), Special Education
2. School Counselor Positions
3. Mental Health Service

The recruitment fairs are scheduled between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on the dates listed below.

Saipan Dates

June 26 postponed to July 03, 2014 at Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria
June 27

Rota Dates

July 11
Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior High School

Tinian Dates

July 11
Tinian Elementary School

Contact Info:
CNMI PSS Human Resources Office
P.O. Box 501370 Saipan MP 96950
Tel: 670-237-3031/59,79,52
Fax: 670-664-3707
psshr@cnmipss.org

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18 past Liberation Day Queens to join 4th of July parade

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eighteen former Liberation Day Queens will be joining this year's Liberation Day parade that will start as early as 9am and will begin from Quartermaster Road all the way to Garapan Fishing Base on July 4.

According to Liberation Day Queen committee head for past Liberation Day queens Carmen Gaskins, this year's Liberation Day Committee invited these former queens to join this year's parade as a show support and gratitude.

"Because the Liberation Day is actually a fundraising event and the Liberation Day queens are usually the ones who have fundraised more, we want to show them our gratitude," Gaskins said.

The funds raised by the Liberation Day Queen candidates go into the Liberation Day Committee's chest and the winning candidate receives about 20 percent of the funds earned while the rest goes to the expenses of hosting the Liberation Day celebration.

Gaskins noted that the third Liberation Queen ever, from 1957, Concepcion Ada Torres, will be joining past Liberation queens on the parade. The past Liberation queens will be on a float of their own.

According to Saipan Mayor Marian Deleon Guerrero Tudela, it is good for the former queens to join the parade because "it shows they are very proud of the tradition."

Tudela said those who could not join have either passed away or have gone off-island.

"But we are going to recognize them," Tudela told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gaskins is also asking the families of past Liberation Day queens to help the former queens in setting up their float for the July 4th celebration.

Former Liberation Day queens joining the parade include: Concepcion (1957), Frances Sablan (1960), Annie DLG. Hayes (1971), Patricia Rasa (1972), Piding Tenorio (1974), Pauline Kapileo (1973), Julie T. Lieto (1975), Juanita Crisostimo-Aflague (1976), Josephine Togawa-Plinske (1980), Clarissa Bearden (1986), Michelle Iginoef (1996), Leiana O. Saures (2004), Yvonne Passi (2005), Janelle Reyes (2007), Peachy Quitugua (2010), Joni Castro (2011), Lydia Pangelinan (2012), and Nicole Sablan (2013).

July 2 coronation night

According to Liberation Day Queen committee chair Joan Aquino, the 2014 Liberation Day Queen and her royal court will be crowned two days before Liberation Day on July 2.

Coronation night will take place at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Church.

"The reigning queen for 2013, Sablan, and the royal court as well as the 2013 Liberation candidates will be joining."

Aquino noted that parents will be the ones to crown their daughters if they were to be chosen for 2014 Liberation Day Queen and the royal court.

Bordallo files for re-election

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) filed yesterday her candidacy for congressional representative for Guam. The delegate was joined by her family and friends at the Guam Election Commission at noon for the filing. Bordallo is serving her sixth term as Guam's representative to the U.S. Congress.

Bordallo

During her 12 years in Congress, Bordallo has focused on issues important to our community. She has worked closely with her colleagues and federal officials to advance Guam issues and advocate for the needs of the island.

Bordallo serves as the Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Readiness, a Member of the Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Military Personnel, Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, and Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation.

"It has been an honor serving the people of Guam as their delegate to Congress," said Bordallo. "As a senior member of Congress, I have made great strides to educate my colleagues about the importance of our island and the issues we face. I've worked hard to include Guam in federal legislation and provide more economic opportunities for our island and educational opportunities for our children. I am working to improve services for our veterans and will never stop fighting for justice for our *man'åmko*. We have made a lot of progress on many issues and we can build on this progress in the 114th Congress. I ask for your continued support to represent you in Congress." ***(PR)***

Private land owner wants property back from CUC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board vowed yesterday to resolve at once the concern raised by resident Conrad Sablan, the heir of a private property upon which a facility of the utilities agency is currently located.

Sablan said it's been awhile since his family has been communicating with CUC over a 9,400-square meter property where CUC's Maui water tank and related fences are located.

During yesterday's public comment period, Sablan said the property was inherited from his father who died sometime in 1988. The title to the land was completed and obtained only just last year, he added.

"I believe this property is owned by my father even before the war. My desire is not to receive any compensation [or land exchange] but a termination/waiver from CUC," Sablan said.

According to CUC legal counsel James Sirok, when the utilities corporation started constructing its facilities on the property, this was described as an agricultural homestead based on the 1988 mapping.

CUC officials said yesterday that, although they do not question or dispute Sablan's claim to the land as this is supported by documentation, there remains a need to find pertinent records related to the parcels of land and the construction of utility facilities on the site.

According to Sablan, he's been patiently working with CUC on the issue and has no intention of elevating the matter to the court.

"Honestly, I am not interested in suing CUC, but to settle this matter amicably with the agency," he told the board, adding that he recognizes the too many issues now being handled by the agency and additional burden from his family is not the best way to resolve the longstanding issue.

After hearing the heir's plight, CUC board chair David J. Sablan instructed CUC management and its legal counsel Sirok to further research the issue.

In the case certain documents or related materials are nowhere to be found, the board chairman hinted that CUC will then develop an "agreement" between parties which will stipulate the waiving of rights to elevate the matter/claim to the courts.

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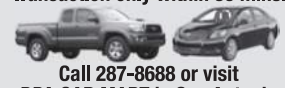
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DPA CAR MART in San Antonio

Group seeks to create no-kill animal shelter

The public is invited to attend a get-together today, July 1, 2014, to share ideas and discuss plans for "Emily's Hope," a non-profit, no-kill animal shelter on Saipan. The get-together will at the Café at The Park in Garapan, starting at 6:30pm.

"Emily's Hope," a future shelter, will house lost, homeless, and abandoned dogs and cats. Its goal is to aid each animal with housing, medical care, spay and neuter programs, and meals in a safe, loving, and caring environment while waiting for adoption or being reunited with their family.

If you or anyone you know are interested in learning more or have a skill you could share with us to help, or just come with your support, join us as we work together to make "Emily's Hope" a reality. For more information, contact Damiana at 322-5949. ***(PR)***

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KILILI

From Page 1

The five top goals he has set out to work on and eventually attained are: 1) getting back submerged lands; 2) making the transition to federal immigration as "least difficult" as possible; 3) keeping the minimum wage going up without hurting the people who earn minimum wage; 4) getting families in the CNMI the same food aid that other Americans get; and 5) increasing federal funding for education.

His most pointed statements were directed at members of the CNMI Legislature that supported Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro's (R-Saipan) House Resolution 18-34, which asked Congress to scrap from any pending national immigration reform bills a provision that would grant a pathway to improved immigration status for long-term, legal aliens in the CNMI, among other things.

Sablan sent a copy of the resolution to the Congressional Research Service for analysis, the results of which discredit the Ogumoro resolution's three broad claims against Sablan's language in S. 744.

One, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act or the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control does not violate the Covenant.

Two, S. 744 with Sablan's language does not amend Section 506 of the Covenant. Sablan said the CNRA repealed Section 506 and therefore it cannot be amended because "it no longer exists."

"When Members of Congress see this obvious legal error, again, Resolution 18-34 loses credibility," he said.

Three, Sablan said the claim that Section 2109 of the U.S. Senate immigration reform bill gives "green cards" or U.S. citizenship to aliens is "simply false."

The U.S. Congressional Research Service says Section 2109 "does not automatically grant any status to any long-term foreign resident of the CNMI."

"Again, House Resolution 18-34 got it wrong," Sablan said in his address.

The delegate said anyone can have an opinion about public policy but when CNMI legislators send a formal, legal document to the U.S. vice president and the U.S. House speaker "that is so full of mistakes, you make us all look a little foolish."

"I wish you had been more careful. I wish you had held a hearing on your resolution—before you voted. Maybe these mistakes could have been avoided," he said.

In the end, Sablan said he understands the "real fear" behind H.R. 18-34, which is that "more and more voters in the Marianas are not Chamorros or Carolinians."

But he said the CNMI should remember it's not because of federal immigration law but because of a CNMI Legislature bill that was passed and enacted 30 years ago.

Ogumoro, in an interview after the joint session, said the CNMI needs a delegate "that really strongly supports and fights for the rights of the people of the Commonwealth, and one that communicates very closely with the leaders of the CNMI."

"I stand by my resolution and I commend the House for passing it," Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune*.

The full text of Sablan's speech, detailing his hard work for the CNMI and its people, is available online.

But in some instances where he veered away from his prepared speech, Sablan pointed at differences he had with Gov. Eloy S. Inos on education funding, while at the same time considered these as opportunities to work together.

In yet another deviation from his prepared speech, Sablan announced that he will not sponsor a legislation that will "shortcut" the National Environmental Protection Act, or NEPA, process when it comes to the impact of military plans for the CNMI.

Col. Philip J. Zimmerman, officer-in-charge for the U.S. Marine Corps Activity Guam, the ranking military official in attendance at the SOCA yesterday, said he concurs with Sablan's statement "wholeheartedly" about not shortcutting the NEPA process.

ECONOMY

From Page 1

"At the moment, we must await the decision of the courts before we can have a concrete date to put your money back in your pockets," he told the crowd at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Because of the litigation, the Lottery Commission, in their meeting on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon, didn't announce any decision whether to grant—and to whom—a license to exclusively develop a minimum $2-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan. Instead, the commission prepared for court proceedings related to casino lawsuits this week.

The governor asked for peoples' patience while "work is still being done."

"No matter how many people try to stop this effort, I will keep fighting to give you your money back," the governor said, drawing applause from the crowd, many of them also retirees waiting for their deferred 25 percent pension since last year.

He said tourism would always be an important industry but that it cannot be the CNMI's sole economic driver. He pointed out that with the help of the Legislature and the people, they will continue to attract new industries and jobs.

"With all due respect to the lawyers in attendance, we cannot sue our way to prosperity. We must be proactive and seek out potential new investors," Inos said.

The Senate and House of Representatives held a joint session at 10am yesterday to receive the governor's SOCA, as well as a report from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

All nine senators were present, while two of 20 House members were absent: Reps. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) and Teresita Santos (R-Rota).

It was Inos' first SOCA. He became governor on Feb. 20, 2013, when Benigno R. Fitial resigned in the middle of an unprecedented impeachment process. Then-Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider became Inos' lieutenant governor.

Inos is running for the first time as a governor in a CNMI election this November. He is facing three other gubernatorial candidates.

'Too fast'

Inos shifted to the U.S. military's plans for the CNMI, after talking about the recent commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian and after recognizing the men and women from the CNMI that served and continue to serve the armed forces.

The U.S. military, Inos said, is changing its focus from the Atlantic to the Pacific theater. This, he said, would change the CNMI "into what would be one of the world's largest military training bases covering land, sea, and air."

"I believe as your governor, these proposed changes are happening too fast," he said. "I believe that we must carefully weigh and consider the proposed military activities planned to take place [on] our islands."

The U.S. military eyes expanding its use of Tinian, and to use Pagan in the Northern Islands for military training, including bombing activities.

Col. Philip J. Zimmerman, officer-in-charge for the U.S. Marine Corps Activity Guam, the ranking military official in attendance at the SOCA yesterday, noted that both the governor and the delegate recognized that environmental impact studies are being conducted in connection with planned military activities in the CNMI.

Inos also reiterated his position that a U.S. Air Force divert airfield should be placed on Tinian rather than Saipan.

'Collaboration'

The governor also spoke about collaboration in government.

"Today, I'm proud to share with each and every one of you that the State of our Commonwealth is once again experiencing true collaboration between the Executive and Legislative branches as well as our U.S. congressional delegate. This partnership, and with the people standing by our side, has resulted in the Commonwealth experiencing exponential growth," the governor said.

He said as a result of the retirement settlement agreement, the CNMI has shrunk the general fund deficit from $300 million to $70 million.

The CNMI also increased its annual appropriation from a low of $102 million to now $135 million.

Inos also thanked Delegate Sablan for together, they were successful in passing a submerged lands bill, getting renewed assistance from the federal government in helping secure additional funds, and securing a five-year extension of the CW program that allows the CNMI continued access to some 10,000 skilled and professional foreign workers up to 2019.

He also called on government-private sector partnership in fostering "a generation of workers, people with skill, drive and passion," as the CNMI prepares its U.S. workforce for the eventual end of the foreign worker program in five years.

The governor reported on funding for education that meets federal requirements, as well as successful consolidation of agencies without disrupting public services. He also took note of Northern Marianas College's removal from show-cause status and reaffirmation of its accreditation.

More numbers

In keeping with the theme of an improving CNMI economy, the governor pointed out that the islands have attracted new investors.

The CNMI has issued a little over 800 new business licenses in the past year and a half alone, he said.

At the same time, the CNMI's bankruptcy rate is the least per capita in the nation, Inos added.

After seeing tourism on the brink of collapse, the governor said the visitor industry is seeing a "significant rebound."

Total visitor arrivals are expected to reach 472,000 this year, nearly a 9-percent increase from last year, citing data from the Marianas Visitors Authority's managing director Perry Tenorio.

Inos said the CNMI has gone from having too many empty rooms to not having enough rooms to accommodate tourists. He recognized E Land Group for rebranding the former The Palms Resort to the global brand Sheraton, while also acknowledging continued efforts by Hafadai Beach Hotel, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Mariana Resort, among others.

The governor also thanked long-term and locally-owned businesses like Joeten Enterprises and its group of companies, Herman's Modern Bakery, Triple J, and Tan Holdings, to name a few.

The governor also spoke of the CNMI and Guam's collaboration, including addressing trade barriers between the two so that cattle import and export would become a reality this year.

Inos also said the solvency of the Retirement Fund has been extremely touchy, and that he has done "and will continue to do everything possible to ensure that this situation is resolved."

"We still have a long way to go, but a solution has been identified and we are hopeful that we will be able to honor our obligations as quickly as possible," he said.

The governor said 90 percent of residents now have 24-hour water services—an 80-percent increase from just two years ago.

Through Department of Public Works' staff and federal partners' aid, the CNMI has obtained and executed more than $11 million in contracts to improve roads and highways within the last 36 months.

In the last 16 months alone, a total of $33 million in capital improvement project funds have been obligated to help improve people's quality of life.

In the next 90 days, additional obligations of over $20 million will go toward other projects on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The governor also spoke about the revitalization of the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

The governor also said spoke about the lifting of a 1999 consent decree on the Department of Corrections in connection with the prison, as well as rehabilitation of the Saipan airport's runway. He noted an increase in food stamp assistance for residents needing help.

Toward the end of his address, the governor said, "We have made a whole lot of progress, but much more must be done and our work will not stop to identifying the solutions necessary."

He said together with the lieutenant governor, the delegate, the Senate president, the House speaker and their colleagues, they will continue to build on improving the quality of life in the CNMI.

"We cannot sit idly by, we will not stop our efforts, and we will not change our resolve to make the CNMI more prosperous for all citizens. While we are making significant progress in identifying and enacting solutions, there are many more mountains we have to climb," he added.

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, when asked for comment on the SOCA, said he thinks both the governor's report and the delegate's report "give us an overall picture, a true picture of our situation in the CNMI and how it relates to Washington."

"And I think the sum total of their message is crystal clear: Elected leaders of the CNMI, please work together to try to overcome those hurdles that lie between us and Washington, D.C.," Castro told *Saipan Tribune*.

Alex Sablan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said the governor provided a "concise overview of the CNMI's trials, tribulations, and ultimate successes that we can call achieve if we work together."

Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), however, noted that the governor didn't mention the CNMI's problems related to interisland transportation; for example, the lack of air service between Rota and Saipan/Guam.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), for his part, thinks the governor's SOCA is a "fair portrayal of the issues and challenges."

"If you're expecting dramas, lightning and thunder, it's not there but it's not necessarily a bad thing. At least strides are forward motion, which I think has been lacking all these years," he said.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) was expecting more about the CNMI's financial conditions other than what's been done.

"I was expecting more about where we needed to be, rather than what we've done. One also caught my attention, when the governor said we have to wait for the decision of the court," Yumul said, referring to the casino litigation.

Ramon B. Camacho, chairman of the Saipan Municipal Council, said the governor's message was "good" when he said elected leaders need to work together. "Set aside politics, because we have pressing issues before us," he added.

WEDDED BLISS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 47th wedding anniversary to Francisco and Isabel Camacho. May you both have many more wonderful years together. Thank you for everything. We love you! Greetings come from Jeff, Pauline, Nikki, Josh, Ricky and Zion.

Insurance firm agrees to pay widow $34.8K in insurance policy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An insurance company has agreed to pay $34,775 in insurance policy benefits to the wife of a then-trade specialist of the Department of Public Health and Environmental Services who reportedly drowned on Rota in 2011.

FirstNet Insurance Co. made the decision to make the payment after Monica H. Semilla, wife of the late Alberto S. Semilla, surfaced after reading *Saipan Tribune*'s story about the policy. Mrs. Semilla then responded to FirstNet's lawsuit and to the court.

Attorney Richard W. Pierce, counsel for FirstNet Insurance Co., has informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI about their agreement to pay Mrs. Semilla and asked the court to dismiss its lawsuit.

Saipan Tribune ran a story about FirstNet's lawsuit that was filed in federal court in March 2013. The lawsuit sought to discharge the company from any obligation to Mrs. Semilla and Mr. Semilla's three children.

FirstNet named as defendants Mrs. Semilla, and Teresita Montana, as the attorney-in-fact for the children: Albert, Aljerom and Angelica Similla.

According to Pierce in the lawsuit, FirstNet insured the life of Alberto S. Semilla under a group life policy with the government of the CNMI. He said the policy provided basic coverage on Mr. Semilla's life in the amount of $40,000. Mr. Semilla accidentally drowned on April 23, 2011, on Rota.

Pierce said Monica H. Semilla, the spouse and named beneficiary under the insurance policy, is a U.S. citizen and a resident of Guam. He said Monica Semilla has not filed a claim on the proceeds of the life insurance and her time for filing a claim has expired.

Pierce said Teresita Montana, self-described as attorney-in-fact for three children of the late Alberto Semilla, filed a claim on behalf of the three children. Montana and the three children are Filipino citizens.

The lawyer said FirstNet denied the claim of Teresita Montana because the three children of the late Mr. Semilla were not the named beneficiaries.

Pierce said at the present time, there is an actual case and controversy under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because FirstNet may be subject to conflicting claims to the proceeds of the policy should Monica Semilla file an untimely claim or should the three children file a claim to the proceeds based upon their being heirs.

In a motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed last week, Pierce said Mrs. Semilla, the named beneficiary under the policy of insurance, did not file a claim on the proceeds of the life insurance policy until notified of the court proceeding.

Pierce noted that Mrs. Semilla made an email filing with the court on Jan. 15, 2014, and cited that she was not aware of this life insurance coverage.

Pierce said because the insurance policy at issue makes the estate of the deceased the alternate beneficiary in the event the named beneficiary does not claim, and because a representative of Mr. Semilla's three children had contacted FirstNet, FirstNet brought this court action.

Pierce said the company sent a copy of the complaint and summons by registered mail to the Philippines to Teresita Montana, the individual who had claimed to represent the three adult children of the late Mr. Semilla. He said Montana did not respond even after two telephone calls.

However, Pierce said, he received an email from Angelica Wroblowski, Semilla's daughter who lived in Germany with one of her brothers, Albert Semilla. Angelica wrote that she had received a letter from Mrs. Montana and inquired about how to file a claim in the civil lawsuit.

Pierce said he returned the email with a copy of the summons and complaint and suggested a CNMI-based attorney that might assist her.

Additionally, communications occurred including with someone who appeared to be a German attorney.

Pierce said inasmuch as the purported representative has shown no desire to file a claim on behalf of the estate of the late Mr. Semilla and the named beneficiary has stated she was not aware of the policy on Mr. Semilla's life until publication of this proceeding, FirstNet proposes that the case be dismissed with prejudice.

Under the agreement, FirstNet shall pay Mrs. Semilla the sum of $34,775 as full and complete payment on the insurance policy. FirstNet shall retain $5,225 from the policy proceeds to pay for the cost and fees of the civil lawsuit to find and determine the rightful beneficiary on the policy.

Car driven by alleged intoxicated man causes vehicular accident

A man was injured when a car being driven by an alleged intoxicated man swerved into the opposite lane on Middle Road and hit his vehicle Saturday night.

The accident happened at about 7:25pm in front of a building where the office of Safety 1st Systems CNMI Inc. and Sherwin Williams Paint Store are located.

The victim was injured in the mouth and was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center. His passengers—a daughter and an infant—were not injured, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

The alleged intoxicated driver was also taken to CHC after he complained of chest pains.

Both vehicles had extensive damage on the front bumper portion.

It was not clear whether the alleged intoxicated driver was arrested after the incident. Police placed the incident under further investigation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Key Functions:
The Executive Assistant will help the Executive Officer and the President maintain organizational relationships and act as the main point of contact particularly for business partners and customers in and from China, as well as colleagues and peers in the local Chinese Community. The Executive Assistant should support the management of the President's time and calendar to ensure that the President is fully informed and prepared for all meetings with such stakeholders and to assist in organizing events. The Executive Assistant should be highly organized, able to multi-task and manage multiple time-sensitive demands, have exceptional inter-personal and communication skills and support the mission of the organization. This professional must possess a combination of strategic thinking skills and the demonstrated ability to implement and manage the daily logistical demands of a project centered staffs who work cross functionally to respond to the needs of the organization and its constituents.

Job Requirements:
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and/or Information Technology. With excellent English and Chinese communication skills both oral and written. Must possess experience in MS Office suite. One-year related experience in administrative type functions an advantage. Service-oriented, with strong organizational skills, active listening and active learning is required. Must be open to a variety of responsibilities, changing assignments, and be an overall team player.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, July 14, 2014.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

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No fireworks for July 4 celebration

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE - HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful sales record. Ideally with an Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing plus experience in F&B/restaurant operations and menu preparation. Proficient in MS Excel, Word, Outlook. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese or Korean language will be an advantage. Must have a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. Availability to work evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

ACCOUNTANT

BA in Accounting and a minimum of 3 years experience is required, including preparation of financial statements, processing accounts receivables & payables and other general accounting procedures. Must possess work-related skills, have knowledge & experience in purchasing, inventory control and bank reconciliation. Proficient in various computer software: MS Excel, Word, Outlook and ACCPAC/Sage or similar accounting system. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants must submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by September 14, 2014. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment.
Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Similar to last year, this year's 69th Liberation Day celebration at Garapan Fishing Base has no carnival rides as well as fireworks for the 4th of July event.

It was not too long ago that having rides like a mini-roller coaster, Ferris wheel, and other rides were the norm during Liberation Day festivities.

Many community members have expressed disappointment with the austere celebration this year, saying it resembles the regular Thursday Street Market.

"It's another Street Market, this time every night but with a bigger stage," one said.

Another community member, reminiscing about the past of when carnival rides were the highlight of the annual almost monthlong celebration, said the past two years' observation has been depressing due to the lack of activities.

According to Liberation Day Committee chair Vicente Camacho, the lack of carnival rides is mainly because nobody registered to provide one at this year's Liberation Day celebration.

However, he said they are still welcome to register with committee members who are currently working at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

"They have to go through the process of going to the mayor's office and fill out an application on what they want to do, so people still have time to go to the mayor's office to register," Camacho said.

According to Saipan Mayor's Office special adviser Henry Hofschneider, the Liberation Day Committee is a non-profit group and the mayor's office not affiliated with it.

"The mayor's office is just providing support and if anyone wants to apply for concessions or rides, it will be through the committee and not through the mayor's office," Hofschneider said.

Camacho also told *Saipan Tribune* that there wouldn't be any fireworks for Liberation Day on July 4 either.

One community member said that the fact that there will be no fireworks means "July 4 is canceled."

The 69th Liberation Day will be celebrated all the way to July 6, following the events of coronation night for 2014 Liberation Queen and the royal court on July 2 and the Liberation Day parade and ceremony on July 4.

The Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society and the Judiciary present:

THE LAW IN THE COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES 2014

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REVISITING THE COVENANT: MILITARY INTERESTS IN THE NMI

July 1 at 6:00 pm
American Memorial Park Auditorium
Emeritus Professor Robert J. Desiderio,
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The Lectures Series is made possible by support from the:
Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a nonprofit corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities; CNMI Bar Association; Delta Air Lines; Garment Residual Charitable Fund; Hertz Rent A Car; JET Realty and Development; Saipan Shipping Company; Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc.; and Triple J Star Wholesale Foods.

For more information, contact the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary Historical Society at 236-9805.

ON SANCTION ORDER FOR $1.2K IN ATTORNEY'S FEES

Manglona: Quichocho again doing same improper tactics

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho is again doing the same improper tactics that initially prompted the court to impose sanction on him, according to U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

In denying Quichocho's motion for reconsideration, Manglona gave the lawyer until Friday, June 27, at 4:30pm, to pay $1,200 in attorney's fees to Ming Yang Corp., which owns Ming Yang Market.

In the event Quichocho fails to make the payment, Manglona said that Ming Yang may petition the court for an order to show cause against the lawyer to find him in contempt and impose further sanctions.

Attorney Mark Scoggins, counsel for Ming Yang, filed Friday a petition for an order to show cause as to why Quichocho should not be held in contempt for failing to pay $1,200 in attorney's fees as ordered by the court.

Manglona issued the $1,200 sanction against Quichocho on June 16 for his late submission of his opposition to Ming Yang Corp.'s motion to dismiss a lawsuit. Part of the sanction included paying Ming Yang Corp.'s legal fees in preparing for a motion.

In that order, Manglona noted that over three months have passed from her order and fees have not been paid.

Ming Yang then asked for a court order directing Quichocho to pay this sanction "with all due haste." Manglona granted the request and ordered the lawyer to pay the fees no later than June 25, 2014.

Last June 24, however, Quichocho filed a motion requesting Manglona to reconsider her order. Quichocho claimed that his opposition was due June 12, but that he left Saipan for personal and medical reasons on June 10, so he could not file an opposition.

In denying the motion, Manglona said Quichocho did not explain why he did not file an opposition before he left Saipan, or at least sought an extension.

Manglona said Quichocho claims he did not file an opposition or seek an extension because he was afraid of being sanctioned again.

"But that claim is incredulous. Because here he is now, essentially filing an opposition (styled as a motion for reconsideration) to the sanctions in its entirety," the judge said.

That opposition, Manglona said, basically argues that Quichocho should not have been sanctioned for his initial failure to comply with court rules, and so all efforts to enforce the sanction should cease and be set aside.

Manglona said Quichocho's motion for reconsideration is for essentially the same improper tactics—not filing a timely opposition and then later opposing the motion—that he was originally sanctioned, "yet here he is doing it again."

The case relates to a lawsuit filed by the late William A. Tracy against several businesses on Saipan, including Ming Yang, for allegedly having facilities that are not accessible to persons with disabilities. Quichocho was his lawyer. Tracy was reportedly found dead last Feb. 7. The case has since been dismissed.

CPA board urged to deny research vessels' entry to NMI

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors, Benigno Sablan, attempted yesterday to convince his colleagues to ban the entry of any and all research vessels to the Commonwealth to protect the islands' resources from a potential takeover by the federal government.

Sablan, the board's seaports facilities committee chairman, said that CPA has always allowed the entry of these research vessels but didn't actually generate much revenue from these visiting groups.

This is on top of revelation that CPA is not even made aware of what the research is all about and any related updates when the research is completed.

"We are all affected by research. What scientists normally do, they go up north and do not even tell the mayor of the Northern Islands what they're going to research and eventually they created the Marine National Monument in 2009," Sablan said yesterday during the CPA board meeting, adding that the CNMI should learn from this experience.

This situation, according to Sablan, seems to indicate that the federal government is taking advantage of the CNMI's "non-enthusiastic approach" to its resources.

"Just recently, President Obama came out saying that he's going to increase this monument area further to 200 nautical miles. To prevent that from happening, we have the ability to deny entry of any and all research vessels," said Sablan.

He said this can be done because all ports on three islands are the property of CPA, which has the power to deny the entry of any vessel.

Sablan said he had seen the sporadic entry of research vessels on the islands.

"To lessen the amount of submerged land water resources, I think it's incumbent for CPA to deny any and all these research vessels," said Sablan.

But Sablan's recommendation, which he put in a motion for board decision, was immediately countered by board vice chair Thomas Kiyu Villagomez, who expressed strong opposition to the proposal.

"I am personally against this idea. Remember, we also have some Japanese ships that come out here. Are you saying that we will start denying them entry because they are part of the research group?" asked Villagomez.

Villagomez also cited his concern on the impact this may bring to the federal grants received by CPA and the CNMI as a whole for its various activities and programs.

"I don't think it's the right decision for the CPA board to take on that issue. If we're going to do that, we will have some problems with our federal grants and I don't think restricting vessels will help us anything," said Villagomez.

At Sablan's insistence, a roll call vote on his motion was made on the floor. It was defeated by 3-2 votes. Those who voted against the motion were board members Frances Mafnas, Villagomez, and Michael San Nicolas.

But because Mafnas was the one who seconded Sablan's motion on the floor, the result was "questioned" during yesterday's meeting.

According to Robert Rules of Order, a board member who seconded a motion must vote affirmatively on the motion, which Mafnas did not.

After the voting, Sablan warned his colleagues that he will continue to raise the same recommendation to the board until all members agree to adopt it.

"Rest assured I will continue to appeal the board's decision and will raise it again in our next board meetings," said Sablan.

The CPA board has two vacant slots at present.

Leak detection crew moves to Garapan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is informing businesses and residents in Garapan, from Beach Road to Coral Tree Avenue between Orchid Street and Micro Beach Road, that the CNMI Water Task Force Leak Detection and Repair Project has moved to these areas beginning yesterday, June 30.

Crews will be working in these areas and areas previously noticed. The work will continue until the project is completed. CUC anticipates the project to be finished by Oct. 1, 2014. Crews will be isolating lines to detect leaks, replacing valves and hydrants, and repairing leaks. The project work may mean residents will experience temporary water outages, temporary cloudy or discolored water in the lines, and changes in pressure. This inconvenience is necessary to identify and repair leaks that will lead to improve water service and lower water cost.

CUC recommends that motorist exercise caution when driving through the construction sites.

For more information, contact project manager Pete Sasamoto at (670) 664-2277. ***(CUC)***

House backs COTA on alternative transportation for Guam and NMI

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has adopted House Resolution 18-58 supporting the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority's partnership with Guam in developing alternative regional transportation services between Guam and the CNMI through ferry services.

In a response to the adoption of the resolution, COTA administrator Thomas Camacho said his agency "has taken the lead in applying for a U.S. Department of Transportation grant to fund the ferry system feasibility study for Guam and the CNMI."

COTA earlier applied for the TIGER grant in April, requesting for $4.7 million.

"It is now very clear that both houses of our Legislature support alternative regional transportation system via ferry between Guam and CNMI," Camacho said.

HR 18-58 appeared three times during House sessions held on May 5, June 12, and June 18 this year.

HR 18-58 recognizes that there are no passenger interisland transportation other than air transportation between Guam and CNMI. The increasing demand for transportation and goods as well as providing additional means of transportation such as ferry services or similar vessels will be "highly beneficial" to promote interisland trade between Guam and CNMI.

Camacho said a ferry service will connect people and commerce between the islands.

"It will also improve the economy and most likely create jobs. The CNMI and Guam ferry system will likely include Tinian and Rota as well," Camacho said.

According to him, the ferry will supplement air travel and interisland commuter service for work, delivery of services, interisland cruises, and emergency response.

The Association of Pacific Island Legislature, in its board of directors meeting, recently adopted Resolution 54-BOD-07, promoting an alternative regional transportation between Guam and CNMI by means of commuter or cargo vessel services.

"This is not only to provide commuter service but also to connect our islands as a whole," Camacho said.

Chamber meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its July general membership meeting on Wednesday, July 2, at the Seaside Hall of the Kanoa Resort. Luncheon begins at 11:30am with the meeting starting at noon.

The main guest speaker is Rear Adm. Tilghman D. Payne, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and commander of Joint Region Marianas, regarding the military's intentions on Tinian and Saipan.

Also speaking is Kay Delafield, legal adviser of the CNMI's Water Task Force, regarding CUC's infrastructure improvement projects in Lower Base.

Luncheon cost for Chamber members is $20. Non-member cost is $30. ***(SCC)***

65 Fiesta Resort Saipan Packages for your family to be won!

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Lucky draw will be held on July 24, 2014.

Winners' names and Smiles Card numbers (last 5 digits) will be posted at all participating Mobil stations on August 7, 2014.

The term "net" used in this Promotion means the amount after applying any discounts. A minimum purchase of $15 of fuel, after discounts and coupons, is required to participate in the Promotion. Fleet Card and non-fuel purchases are not eligible for the promotion. No purchase necessary. See Saipan Mobil stations for details.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW-14-RFP-003

WASTE-TO-ENERGY PROGRAM

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals for the Waste to Energy Program, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with §70-30.3-210 (competitive sealed proposals) of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after July 1, 2014 at the Department of Public Works, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950. A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., local time, at the Department of Public Works, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Conference Room on July 18, 2014. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, Saipan, or fax to (670) 234-9828 no later than 4:00 p.m., local time, August 8, 2014.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW-14-RFP-003."** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (6) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, August 13, 2014.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, August 13, 2014, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and six (6) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 13, 2014 and must be received no later August 22, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of proposal.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section **70-30.3-245** and must be able to obtain a CNMI Business License prior to contract award.

Procurement of these services is made in accordance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-210 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1) Experience in waste-to-energy programs	**25%**
2) Proposed power production system	**25%**
3) Financial capacity of proposer	**20%**
4) Proposed financial structure included cost	**30%**

Price is a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit proposals. Qualification and experience are more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest proposer. As proposals become more equal in qualifications and experiences, the important of price will increase.

Award shall be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW14-IFB-004

THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, AND COMMISSIONING OF THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS FOR THE WIC PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND CLINIC PROGRAM, UPPER NAVY HILL, SAIPAN

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofshchneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery, Installation, and Commission of the Emergency generators for the WIC Program Administration and Clinic Building, Upper Navy Hill, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **July 01, 2014**, at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) is required for each set and in order to bid on this project. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 18, 2014** at 9:00 a.m. local time at the WIC Program Administration and Clinic Building, Upper Navy Hill, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 29, 2014** to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with all prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid. The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Pubic Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-14-IFB-004". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **August 1, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **August 1, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 1, 2014**, and must be received no later than **August 12, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **August 15, 2014**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on **August 1, 2014**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred and Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred dollars (**$100.00**) for each and every day the work is delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

DPL to remove unpermitted signboards on public lands

The Department of Public Lands announced yesterday that it will be removing political signboards placed on public lands by individuals or organization who have failed to secure DPL's written permission. Also, DPL will remove signboards that violate the conditions of the permit.

DPL has a current list of candidates that have paid for and have secured DPL's permit to allow the placement of political signboards on public land. We know who has secured permits and who have not. Again, DPL emphasizes that it will remove any political signboard placed on public land without a written permit or is in violation of the permit conditions.

Before placing signboards on public land, each candidate should know and understand the important provisions of their permits. Common violations include signboards being placed on public land within less than six feet from the edge of any road pavement; less than 50 feet from any traffic light; placement of signboards on the western side of Beach Road, which is prohibited by the permit; and signboard exceeding dimensions of 4 feet by 8 feet placed on public land. Two 4 feet by 8 feet plyboards connected at an angle or on top of each other is not permitted. Only single 4 feet by 8 feet signboard is allowed.

All candidates running for office, including individuals and/or individual groups who intend on placing their political signboards on public land, are urged to visit the Department of Public Lands' offices to fill out a Political Signboard Application form and pay a one-time non-refundable $100 permit fee. Our offices are located in the following areas: second floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building on Saipan, San Jose Village on Tinian, and Songsong Village on Rota. As soon as the application is paid and submitted, our office will prepare a permit that would allow this activity to be conducted on public land subject to provisions contained in the permit. ***(DPL)***

Marpi landfill, transfer station closed on July 4

In observance of Independence Day on Friday, July 4, 2014, the Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill will be closed all day. Regular schedule will resume on Saturday, July 5, 2014, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4pm. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 1, 2006

CPA and MVA work out plan for Rota flights

Faced with a likely loss of international reservation system, ports and tourism authorities are mapping out a plan to convince Continental Micronesia from suspending its flights to Rota in October this year. Commonwealth Ports Authority consultant Carlos H. Salas said yesterday that a meeting among local officials is set on Monday, July 3, on Saipan. "We'll meet among ourselves first. We'll decide what specific options we can bring to the table when we meet with airline officials," said Salas. This meeting will be attended by the local delegation that flew to Guam last week for a dialogue with the airlines officials. On Thursday, July 6, the delegation will meet with the Continental and Cape Air officials on Rota.

Worker told to leave NMI

Department of Labor administrative hearing officer Barry Hirshbein has ordered a nonresident worker to depart the CNMI after she alleged, among other things, that she had paid money to get employment with a company and was treated unfairly at work. In his order issued Wednesday, Hirshbein said that complainant Li Jiang "appears willing to state whatever she believes will help her obtain her desired result." The hearing officer pointed out that even with Jiang's lack of credibility, even if she were believed in every respect, she has not stated any claim that supports a finding of any violation of the Nonresident Worker Act against respondent Michigan Inc.

July 1, 2007

NMI gets $1.13M DoJ grant

The Northern Mariana Islands will be receiving $1.13 million as its share of a $60 million-plus Department of Justice grant intended to help fight crime. The Justice Department announced yesterday that more than $60 million in anti-crime funding will be released to California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, New York, West Virginia and the Northern Mariana Islands. The funds, provided through the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program, will be used by the state and territorial governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and improve the criminal justice system.

Petition proponents to ratchet up their efforts

The citizen group is stepping up efforts to gather support behind a petition for enhanced legislative transparency, as the deadline draws near for initiative petitions. Organizer Tina Sablan said the group will hit the Liberation Day parade on Wednesday to collect more signatures for the initiative petition to extend the Open Government Act to the Legislature. Petitions to pass a law must be submitted by Friday, July 6, 2007, to the Attorney General's Office for review. The AGO will check if the petition has met legal requirements in order to be put on the ballot. One of the requirements is that the petition must be signed by at least 20 percent of registered voters. Sablan said her group is getting close to the target of approximately 3,000 signatures.

July 1, 2008

La Fiesta eyed as adult biz complex

The CNMI Commerce Department is eyeing the now abandoned La Fiesta mall in San Roque as a potential site for a complex housing strip clubs and similar adult businesses. The La Fiesta property has remained eerily vacant ever since its doors shut in 2004 amid reports of severe financial problems by its previous owners. Yet Commerce in a proposal presented to the CNMI Zoning Board June 30 said the mall—three corridors of retails space totaling more than 37,000 square meters—provides an "ideal set up" for a so-called "adult business park" because it has design elements suited for the task.

Deployment of 32 personnel is affecting DPS' operations

The scheduled deployment of 32 police officers and firefighters to the Middle East is beginning to affect operations at the Department of Public Safety, with some of these personnel already taking their leave. DPS Commissioner Claudio Norita told Saipan Tribune yesterday that as of last Thursday he already received copies of 20 deployment orders. "So we're helping them process their military leave and annual leave. I think the order was for July 14," Norita said.

Marianas Stars
Entertainment, Inc.

DO YOU CARE?

DO YOU CARE WHETHER THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE IS HEARD ON WHETHER CASINO GAMING WILL BE ALLOWED ON SAIPAN? **MARIANAS STARS** supports the right of the people, either directly or through their elected representatives, to decide the future of their islands. We oppose any efforts to gut the referendum process. In legislative proceedings, we support a thorough, deliberate and transparent process where the people have the opportunity to be heard. We would be honored to be awarded a casino gaming license on Saipan, but only through a fair and transparent process that has the broad support of the people.

DO YOU CARE WHETHER TINIAN AND ROTA WILL PROSPER ALONG WITH SAIPAN? If the people choose casino gaming on Saipan, **MARIANAS STARS** has a plan to ensure that the islands will develop together. Our sister company has already invested over $40 million on Tinian, and has plans to invest over $600 million more for a 5-star hotel, luxury villas, a golf course, a water park and other projects. If we are fortunate enough to receive a license on Saipan, we would have every incentive to make sure that our projects on both islands prosper. Part of our plan would be to improve transportation links between the islands—not only to transport guests back and forth between Saipan and Tinian, but to provide much improved connections to Rota and Guam as well.

DO YOU CARE WHETHER THE CNMI GETS THE MONEY IT NEEDS TO HELP RETIREES, STUDENTS, WORKERS AND EVERYONE ELSE? If the people choose casino gaming on Saipan, **MARIANAS STARS** respectfully requests that the following proposal be considered: Don't just award one license, award two—assuming each applicant meets the qualifications. Take the current plan for one 2,000-room mega-resort and split it into two 1,000-room resorts. But keep the fees the same for each licensee, so that the CNMI gets a total of $30 million per year from the two licensees rather than just $15 million from one. Each applicant will get half a loaf, but the CNMI will get twice the revenue for the retirees. For health care. For schools. For infrastructure. For everyone. Healthy competition will create greater prosperity and greater accountability. More importantly, a non-monopoly assures the integrity of the process, removing any suspicion that legislation was rushed, or designed, for any one bidder.

DO YOU CARE? **WE CARE. BECAUSE WE'RE ALREADY YOUR NEIGHBORS!**

Si Yu'us Ma'ase. Oloomway. Thank You.

MARIANAS STARS:
THE PEOPLE OF THE CNMI DESERVE BETTER!

www.marianasstars.com

LEGEND OF THE OCEAN

INTEGRATED THEME PARK & CASINO RESORT, SAIPAN

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The ISIS assault in Iraq leads to an unusual alliance

American relations with the Middle East in general and with Syria in particular are in the process of taking some peculiar turns, reflecting the delicate policy nature of the region.

The earlier U.S. policy of trying to replace the regime of President Bashar Assad with a more sympathetic one failed, first through the durability of Mr. Assad's regime and second due to sharp divisions among the rebels against him, which included Islamist extremist elements opposed by the United States. On Thursday, President Barack Obama asked Congress for $500 million to train and arm moderate opposition members.

Yet there came out of the Syrian debacle a U.S. foreign policy success. Through the instrument of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the help of Russia and President Vladimir V. Putin, Syria relinquished all of its chemical weapons, the removal of which was completed this month.

But now comes the crazy part. Following the adage that says the enemy of my enemy is my friend, the United States and Mr. Assad's Syria are united in opposing the advancement of the forces of the extreme Islamist State of Iraq and Syria against the Shiite regime of Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki in Iraq. ISIS is also the enemy of Mr. Assad in Syria, and the Syrian air force has carried out strikes on ISIS forces near the Iraq-Syria border.

In another twist, Iran is now providing intelligence, drones, a dozen advisers and other military support to Mr. Maliki's regime. Mr. Obama is also sending intelligence and other support, including 300 Special Forces reportedly accompanied by 1,000 private security consultants to protect them, to aid Mr. Maliki in keeping power in the face of ISIS forces drawing near to Baghdad, the capital, where he and 5,000 Americans are still located.

Washington has considered Iran to be an enemy since the ayatollahs' takeover in 1979, a status reinforced by President George W. Bush who in 2002 deemed it part of the "Axis of Evil." Even Mr. Obama has been tardy and tentative in the dialogue with Tehran that he promised as a candidate.

So, at the moment, the United States, the Assad government in Syria, Iran and the Maliki regime in Iraq are allies in opposing ISIS. The muddle is harder to understand than the soccer group competitions in Brazil. Americans can only hope that Washington understands what is going on and what U.S. policy should be.

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THE SUPREME COURT HAS RULED THAT POLICE NEED A WARRANT TO SEARCH CELLPHONES.
THAT'S A MAJOR WIN FOR PRIVACY!
THE SUPREME COURT HAS RULED THAT POLICE NEED A WARRANT TO SEARCH CELLPHONES.
THAT'S A MAJOR WIN FOR PRIVACY!
NSA
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Whangara's whale rider

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

I did not make it to Whangara when my second wife and I drove around the North and South Islands of New Zealand one half-a-month a zillion years back. My second daughter with my primal spouse spent her last year in high school in a town in the South Island near the ferry town of Nelson in the '90s, and I recently visited her family (Irish husband and two boys) in Concord, CA, by the Diablo mountain where she let me watch her copy of the movie, the *Whale Rider,* set in the novel and filmed in Whangara, North Island, New Zealand.

I recently celebrated the *bonne femme* of colleagues who gathered in Bonham, Texas, a few weeks back as we recognized once more that we are as a specie way behind in walking our talk on gender equality. For those of us who benefit from the shadows of patriarchy, we can never be confessional enough about our active participation in ignoring the Chinese sage's wisdom that declares: "Women hold half of the sky" *(fu nu neng ding ban bian tian).*

The movie. The main character, played by a young Aussie girl Keisha Castle-Hughes who three years later showed up in Star Wars III, and a year later, Mary in *Nativity,* is named Paikea "Pai" Apirana. In the movie, she is the daughter of a young Maori father Porourangi, whose wife, and son, a twin to "Pai," die at childbirth. Porourangi is strained from his father, the chief warrior of his community; he refuses to follow after his father's footsteps, and will not allow his father to "use" him again to sire another child.

The father, Paikea's grandpa, is Koro, dyed-in-the-wool stuck in the male prerogative to lead the Maori. But not just male prerogative; he must be the first son, for his second son is just as able but he refuses to bestow on him the privilege to train as the new chief warrior. While he was emotionally close to first-born granddaughter Paikea, he resisted letting "Pai" grow up to lead the community, although she was willing and able to play the role.

Koro prepares the male kids to be warriors; Pai learns how to be one on the side, including the ability to utter traditional Maori chants without grandpa's assistance, in spite of grandpa's disdain for her progressive assertiveness.

The Maori of Koro's chants claim to have come from the island of Havai'i, which would be in Tahiti of French Polynesia, previously from Sava'i in Samoa. From Havai'i, legend had it that a warrior rode a whale to lead the Maori to the island. Thus, the whale rider.

Koro takes his students to the ocean and drops the chief's main symbol of a whale bone into the deep water, admonishing the students that whoever brings it back up gets to be the new chief. Two boys cannot locate it, another two fight over it, subsequently dropping it on the way up for air. Koro's No. 2 son who was with the group when the whalebone was dropped takes Pia to the site, and, of course, she comes up with it, alongside with a live lobster for the pot for good measure!

I am going in details here because this story, more than a decade old, is couched in the metaphor of a Polynesian culture that may easily be dismissed as a relic of the past. In reality, the ascendancy of the female of the specie to be at par with the social status of their male counterpart is clearly non-existent even in supposedly enlightened civil society like the United States. Worse, females getting beaten up globally seemed to have gotten more prominence in the reporting of late.

Back to the movie. A pod of whales strand themselves on the sand of Whangara to die, resistant of any attempt by the Maori to get them back into the water. Pia decides to ride the biggest one, and ride she does, holding her breath underwater as the rest of the herd heads out to the open sea. Koro, meanwhile, gets his whale bone back informed that it was retrieved by the granddaughter!

A melodramatic tale, it is. Controversial issues are often better dealt with in metaphors rather than objective logical discourse. My life has been surrounded with feminine presence throughout my existence so far, and partly matriarchal in my upbringing since Dad went to graduate school in another country when I was but 10, the matrilineal line of our Pacific culture (as opposed to the Spanish patrilineal bent) got accented. That's probably why I have sensitivity to my own contribution in the dastardly affair of reflexive cultural machismo.

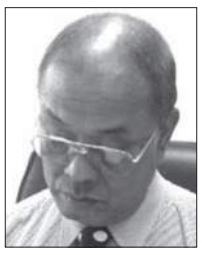
What has become clear, like any liberation movement of note, is that the outsider cannot hold the fort. The insiders will have to plot their own assertiveness to succeed. But like the Caucasians and non-Africans during the U.S. civil rights movement, we were but a useful fodder to assault the "guilt" of the dominant white society; it took the blood, flesh, and broken bones of descendants of former African slaves in the South to finally get the point across.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 in the U.S. was costly. With an African-American President, Obama crowns a journey that was costly. As to the *bonne femme*, Pia notwithstanding, I'd be lying if I say, you've come a long way, baby!

Ekun gatbu na bos gi chagu`

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Esta na`mahalañg ekun bonitan bos palao`an ni sessu hu dandan an` mamañgge`yu`. Kulan mohon gaige chagu` lugat gi lañget. I ekun bosña kinilili` ni mañglu` esta i halom mapagahes paraisu.

I kanta pot un` bonitan bos, finapos tautau yan regalun niyog. Kikini` i tres sunidu ni inakompapañia suabe na piano, ukulele, gitala yan cheflan napu.

Suabe ya hana` kakatma hinasoghu. Gaige ha` lokue` gi santatte `an hu tucha nobenahu St. Jude kada oga`an. Ha utut todu otru estotbu gi oriya. Sige pa`gu hu tuge` i primet na attikulu para usun gaseta guine na pahina.

Dispues hu taitai gaseta siha gi internet entalu` New York, LA, Asia, Uropa, Japon, Filipinas, yan otru lugat siha. I seriosu hu kopia ya hu ta`lun tumaitai dispues.

Megai lokue` na asuntun areglon federat sessu hu akanteha pot rason na gi uttimu ala kuenta lai ni todu debi u tinatiye. Tai bali i rumepresesenta hit giya Washington.

I suabe yan gatbu na sunidu guaha `nai chinema` a`gañg na biñgbiñg gi talañgahu. Hu komprende ayu na señat kontodu katen guali`eg gi kisame. Sige pa`gu lumauya hinasoghu. Gof ha`an yan fresko na guinaifen mañglu`.

Bes enkuando, megai `nai hu kuestionan maisayu` kau guaha mensahe gi ayu na ekun bos i sessu hu dandan `an oga`an yan pueñge? Kada ratu doku` este na kuestion pot guaha `nai ha gacha`yu` triste lau ti siña hu pega kalulothu haf` i asuntu.

Hu sottan ñaihon ya sigeyu` ta`lu mañgge`. Silensiu, man-gagauyu` bendision-hu gi Nanalibreta pot siakassu haf` na mattiru para u fatoigue-yu`. Lau megaiña besis na tinatitiye suette tumalag halom giya hame.

Inadiñgan man-menhalom

Namagof na inetnon hu fagcha`e gi alacha gi entalu` man-menhalom yan edukau na tautau-ta. Gi mas man-sustansiau na asuntu kada unu sumañgan klaru kinemprendeña. Diberas sumen na ma`aggem i inadiñgan asuntu siha gi hilu` edukau na konbetsasion. Esta hu domu` un` bandan iluhu kau magahet ayu na dinaña`.

Man-satton pot inadahen dididi` na monedan iya Marianas. I tres lugat mas man-presisu fondu tat kumu i hospitat, edukasion yan pas gi komunida. Todu otru patte u fan ma-utut sin ditension piot ya taya` kabales na setbisiu machochogue para i tautau siha. Konfotmeyu` na dispues de este i tres na asuntu, u fan maribaha amanu i siña fondun otru siha depattamentu yan ahensia.

Maseha mabatbaruruye i asuntu, fan manhoñgge na kara` esta i kahan iya Marianas. Ti bai matman `an guaha ma-utut sueddu pot este na chinatsaga. Na kilulog i asuntu gi hinassomu lau prepara hau para `an u fattu otru munton chinatsaga. Mattu gi chatsaga i tanu` na biahe. Esta titiñgtiñg gi matan katkuet kilisyanu.

Konbetsasion

Ha bisitayu` i amigo Puñut guine gi alacha. Esta fumofofu ni binibuña pot chinatsagan i tanu`. Hu apagat na una` pasensiague` hombre maseha haye ta atan na tat ti chumichichi`. Magahet na te`ug na biahen ha`ilas!

Ilelegña si Tumates na mampos guaguan presiun nesessidat familia siha. Kada ha biragueʼ kahuluʼ i apas kandet, neñkanu`, gaselina, yan lokue apas insurance hinemlu`. "Ke lau haf` adai bidan niniha i mansabiun i hegsu` I Deni`?"

Sige chaka chalegña `nai hu mente na manlolosus i los prohimos sa` masoppla ta`lu i kaddun to`lañg guaka ya nina` fan achigu`. Gigon tinagam ni maneñgheñg offisina mas a`gañg i ñgofñgof babue yan fofun toru. Kontodu puntan lamasa siha sige man-bailan chaole!

Ha fueguyu`, "Dalai `ste!" Ha totche, "Man-kabron lau kasse pot sueddon $90-mit gi sakan na no siakassu ni chinatsagan linala` publiku". Hu apagat lokue` na man-tautau i man-ma`gas ya lamegai ti man-siña che`chu` linahyan lau man-atrebisau.

`Nai ha kaikaigue` para u hanau, sige chumaleg tuyan, "Ai, Iku, lastima ayu na palabra i 'paraisu' ya sasalaguan `nai man-mapega i tautau-ta". Dinanche fino`ña lau tihu petsige.

■■■

Sige dos taraketiyun numañgu gi halom laguna umesuette guihan dikiki`. Dispues de masuette mamaisen i unu, "Hafa Paraisu?" Ineppe, "I hanom `nai numanañgu hit". Ti konfotme i gachoñgña. "Pare, sin este na hanom sen matai hit na dos piot ya ma`te ya atrasau hit huyuñg gi sagua`".

■■■

Ilegña un` prohimu na malalagu-gue` para offisinan publiku. Ineppe ni un` biha, "Maulegña un` kute na u fa`um sanotmu ni bata` bola". Dios mihu!

■■■

Hu faisen maisayu` lokue`, "Hafa dichu paraisun natibu?" I mañge` na tradision tanu`, dinaña familia gi halom katma yan ira, inapinitiye halom hita mismu kontodu abiu ginagau gi Nanalibreta ayudu. Tai atparehu linala-ta guine siha na islas i O`Perlas iya Pasifiku. Megai lugat hu fatoigue ya taya` diberas mas gatbu ke este siha na islas. Si Iku.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do not be disrespectful

Dear Mr. Dubrall: I have followed your letters to the editor in both papers and at first glance I was impressed with your astute knowledge about what has been happening on our small islands, especially when you mentioned that you've moved around and have lived in many places and recently in the Philippines. I must admit that for a while you spoke of helping and coming up with suggestions and making some sensible solutions on how to take care of our many problems.

But, sir, you do not need to be disrespectful and leave a bad and stinky taste in our mouths. Yes, you are our brother and fellow American, but this is not the U.S. mainland. We have cultural differences here that you fail to recognize, which only shows how disrespectful you are. I fail to note where you are being denied because of your U.S. passport or citizenship. Your attacks on the people of our island and community show your true nature as an out-of-date colonialist and imperialist. Unfortunately, with your attitude, you will never be accepted as an islander.

Do not treat us the same as our American brothers treated the indigenous Native Americans and Hawaiians. Just because you are a U.S. mainlander does not give you the right to denigrate this island that most of us are proud to call home.

If you are so righteous, I am not sure what you are doing on this island. You do not hear me or anyone of us making stupid statements and disrespectful statements about our U.S. President or the governor of the state where you were born, right?

Your letter today said the governor should wait and "hold for four months until the people of the CNMI decide the issue." You really have no idea what you are talking about. I am a retiree with a family of five. I was a firefighter at the Commonwealth Ports Authority for many years before retiring in 2003. I am now forced to find employment to make ends meet for my family because of my retirement cuts. What do you offer that is a sustainable and real solution that would help many of the other retirees maintain a simple life and live in humble and comfortable homes?

Many of us who are retired and senior citizens are only looking for what is owed us and to live in peace.

Pedro Kileleman
Garapan, Saipan

My dear CNMI people

When I retired in 2000, I thought for the first time in my life that my dream for my family would be fulfilled, so we moved to the USA in search of that dream. This dream was cut short with a wakeup call by the Retirement Fund disaster starting with the 25-percent cut in my retirement benefits and the reality of a defunct and defective retirement system.

After 20 years of service to our government and people, I have this real bad taste in my mouth and find myself suffocating to find clean air again. As I struggle to balance my financial affairs caused by this predicament of a failed retirement system, I am now forced to seek employment to supplement the needs of my family and finances.

As a retiree, I have wondered—and I venture to say that this same feeling is felt by other retirees, knowing that we have worked hard for our families—whether our tomorrows will be disrupted by more bad news. The opposition to gaming that is circulating—what the newspapers are reporting as a defective petition—failed to submit a complete copy of the public laws as part of the body of their anti-casino and anti-electronic gaming petition. This shortsightedness is the same as their failure to do their due diligence by evaluating how much their destructive actions further create hardships that are now being endured by many of our CNMI retirees.

This anti-reactionary group has not submitted any constructive recommendations to replace what both the administration and Legislature have passed into laws. My family and I are suffering and are being displaced because of the failure of our past leaders to listen to the pleading and recommendations made by the Retirement Fund's managers and professional financial planners. So much has been written and covered by our local newspapers that one need only go back and track the history and directions that led to this disaster.

I ask Leila Staffler and Rota Resort and Rota Water owner Mr. Su Ho Cho and his managers to stop the petition circulation and stop littering our Saipan streets with billboards and instead come up with solutions to prevent further financial disasters faced by our retirees. I further ask Mr. Cho of Rota Resort and Water why is he only placing billboards on Saipan and not on Tinian and Rota? What is your motive?

Herbert Taitingfong
As Perdido, Saipan

To the women of the CNMI that lost their chance at reform

In 1962 Saipan was a typical, peaceful, beautiful, sleepy tropical paradise. There were a couple guest houses, some small bungalows for rent at the golf course, Joeten and MSV stores and four or five others, one for each village, and a couple of bars run by Palauans. Fishing, farming, eating, making and drinking tuba, playing, sleeping, and having babies were the main activates. Idyllic is a word that comes to mind. When I got back in 1979, it was still idyllic but change was in the wind. The first elected governor was a year into his term, federal money was starting to come in and people were taking positions with the new government. The next couple of years saw the solidifying of the CNMI government departments and the expansion of the hiring of residents, mostly Chamorros because more of them had traveled off island for school or training and were more qualified.

In 1982 girlie bars sprouted like *tangan-tangan* and the industry grew apace. In 1983 the first garment factory opened, followed by three more the following year. I was walking on Beach Road in CK one day in '84 (I think it was) and heard a lot or singing and clapping and laughing coming from the road from San Antonio and, my goodness, 60 to 80 Chamorro women were marching up the road toward Susupe and the mayor's office. They had signs saying, "Close the bars," "Bar girls out" and "Send the bar girls home." As far as I know that was the first protest ever on Saipan by women and I don't even remember who the participants were but they were very courageous. Chamorro custom allowed them to say or do pretty much whatever they want inside the household but public displays of any kind were verboten and, for the most part, still are. I never heard or saw these marchers again so I asked a Chamorro lady friend what she thought might have happened. She said: "This is what probably happened that night—the husband came home, slapped his wife and shouted, as she fell backward into the kitchen counter, 'Don't ever embarrass me like that in public again.' Her hand grabbed a frying pan and slapped him upside his head with it and, as he falls backward into a chair, she looks at him and says, 'OK, honey, oh, what would you like for supper?'"

The 2010 Census indicates that women outnumber men 53 percent to 47 percent so, naturally, my question is this: Why have you only elected one woman in the past 30 years to the CNMI Senate? And to you Maria T. Pangelinan, why did you let the men make you "legislative secretary"? That's a pretty demeaning, stereotyped position. You have the power but you are still just kept, basically, barefoot and pregnant, "stay in the kitchen, woman," housewives. Ladies, it ain't 1814 anymore. What happened to the courage your moms and grand moms showed in the '80s? The CNMI desperately needs about 50 women's hands on the tiller of our government right now. We men have messed it up for 32 long years and with eight, men only, pictures on gubernatorial billboards going up all over the islands, I guess you are still regulated to the kitchen.

Gary DuBrall
Chalan Piao, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼79°

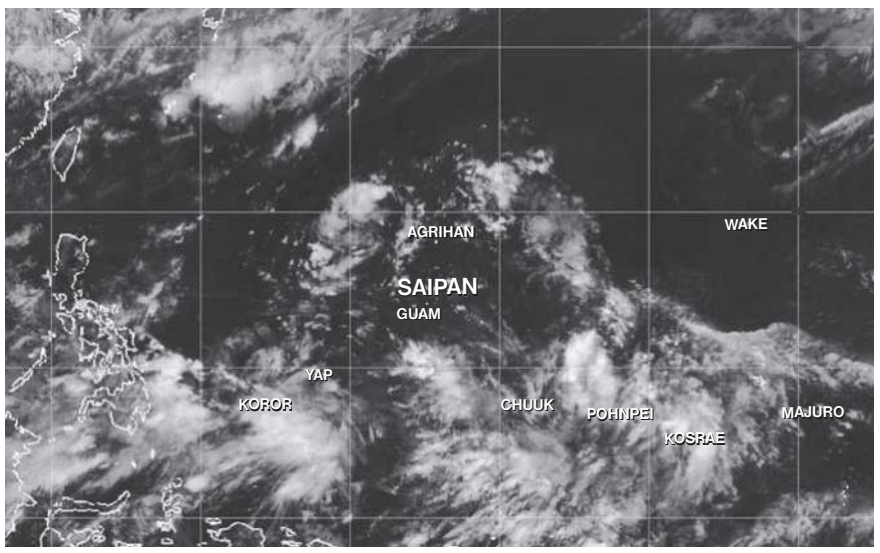
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲59	▼53
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲88	▼71
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼54
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼65
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼69
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼68
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼60
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼68
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼64
Salem	Sunny	▲86	▼58
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼66
Tokyo	Rain	▲82	▼70
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲91	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches from 13N130E through a weak circulation centered north of Koror near 11N133E then passes near Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae to end near 8N166E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present across Palau and Yap between the equator and 10N from 130E to 140E and over Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 11N from 145E to 168E. An upper-level low is centered west of the far northern CNMI near 19N141E. A surface trough extends northeastward from 13N139E to 22N148E. These feature are combining to trigger scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of Guam and Saipan within 175 miles of a line from 15N137E to 21N143E. Scattered showers are also found southwest of Minami Tori shima within 150 miles of a line from 21N147E to 22N154E. Another upper-level low centered east of Wake Island at 17N177E is triggering isolated thunderstorms between 15N and 18N from 172E to 178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:32 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:11 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:49 AM	9:33 PM
Wednesday	9:36 AM	10:11 PM
Thursday	10:23 AM	10:49 PM
Friday	11:10 AM	11:28 PM
Saturday	11:59 AM	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 18, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D28009	12:50pm	4:05pm	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:20am	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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Kimchee Base $6.49 EA.	Tabasco $6.99 12 OZ.	Del Monte Ketchup $4.69 64 OZ.	Mayonnaise $10.49	Kikkoman Soy Sauce $4.69 3.6 L	Fresco Veg. Oil $9.99 GAL.	AVO Veg. Oil $9.99 GAL.
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Beef Ox Tail	$15.99
Pork Chop	$11.99
Pork Bellies	$11.99
Pork Butt	$9.99
Pork Adobo Cut	$9.99
Pork Hocks	$7.99
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US Naval Base Guam holds change of command

SANTA RITA, Guam— U.S. Naval Base Guam held a change of command ceremony at the Tango/Uniform Wharf at the base in Santa Rita on June 20.

Capt. Andy Anderson relived Capt. Mike Ward as NBG's commanding officer.

Retired Navy Cmdr. Matt Miller was the event's guest speaker and commended Ward for his dedication and excellence he has displayed throughout his naval career.

"Your outgoing CO was and is today a consummate professional who never shied away from doing the hard jobs," he said.

Miller and Ward served together at several commands including Attack Squadron 75, USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67), and most recently at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash.

Following Miller's remarks, Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas, presented Ward with the Legion of Merit for his exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service since taking the helm of NBG in 2012.

"I'm sure he will tell you in his characteristic humility that this award is not for him but it's for the men and women who serve at Navy Base Guam," Payne said. "Despite your characteristic humility Mike, I would tell [that] you as a leader of this group has charted the course and set the tempo, and set the attitude and the atmosphere for great success here at Navy Base Guam."

During his tour on island, Ward led the base during joint and multinational operations and exercises critical to the 5th and 7th Fleet's Theater Security Cooperation Strategy and goals. He supported an unprecedented 1,420 ship and submarine visits from the U.S. and our allies, recording more than 3,000 berth days and transferring a total of 25 million gallons of fuel.

He was also responsible for directing several construction programs on NBG that included more than $500 million in both new projects and facility service contracts significantly enhancing the region's combat readiness and support of the warfighter, fleet and family.

"I try to set the standards but it's you…executing them that are meeting the great business of installation management and delivering the warfighter support that is so near and dear," Ward said addressing his installation program directors.

Ward also spoke about his affection of the historical and cultural significance of the base as he hosted several annual events during his tour that welcomed former residents and descendants of Sumay village.

"What I've learned most are three things, Guam's patriotism, rich history and culture, and focus on cooperation and team building," he said. "For the past 24 months, I've had the honor of serving on this beautiful island with my family and I've been fortunate to meet truly great Americans."

Ward will depart Guam and report to U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa in Naples, Italy.

Anderson reports to Guam after serving as executive assistant at Navy Recruiting Command in Millington, Tenn.

"It is a humbling honor and privilege to assume command of an installation with the cultural, historical and strategic significance of Naval Base Guam," he said. "To the men and women of Naval Base Guam, team Guam; I look forward to serving as your installation commander and becoming an active member of the community." ***(PR)***

JOANNA DELFIN

Capt. Andy Anderson, right, assumes command of U.S. Naval Base Guam from Capt. Mike Ward during NBG's change of command ceremony at the Tango/Uniform Wharf at the base in Santa Rita June 20. Ward served as the base commanding officer from June 2012 to June 2014 and will report to U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa in Naples, Italy.

JOANNA DELFIN

From left: Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas; U.S. Naval Base Guam outgoing commanding officer Capt. Mike Ward; and incoming commanding officer Capt. Andy Anderson render salutes as colors are posted during NBG's change of command ceremony at the Tango/Uniform Wharf at the base in Santa Rita June 20. Anderson relieved Ward as the base commanding officer.

US Naval Hospital Guam holds change of command

JOANNA DELFIN

Capt. Mike Ward, U.S. Naval Base Guam outgoing commanding officer, delivers remarks during NBG's change of command ceremony at the Tango/Uniform Wharf at the base in Santa Rita June 20. Capt.

LT. DAVID GROVES/US NAVAL HOSPITAL GUAM

Capt. Jeffrey M. Plummer marks the end of two years of command at the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam during a change of command ceremony in the hospital's atrium on June 27.

AGANA HEIGHTS, GUAM—Just two short months after the ribbon cutting, the staff of the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam held a change of command ceremony in the hospital's atrium on June 27.

During the ceremony Capt. Jeannie B. Comlish assumed command of the hospital from Capt. Jeffrey M. Plummer, marking the end of two years of command for Plummer.

During his command Plummer oversaw the construction and historic transition of hospital staff to a new facility. The hospital became operational in the spring of 2014, with the first patient seen April 21.

In his final speech to the staff Plummer said, "A young Corpsman once asked me what made me stay in the Navy past 20 years. At the time I gave him some kind of answer like, 'I'm still having fun' and I am, but thinking over it a little more I think I stay because I get interesting, challenging work, I get the opportunity for personal and professional growth and development, and even more than that, I get to wake up every day and get to come to work with some of the finest citizens our nation has ever known," then looking directly at his staff and with emotion in his voice he added, " That would be you, thank-you for your service."

Comlish comes to Guam from Naval Hospital Oak Harbor, where she served as executive officer.

"Our mission and vision will remain the same; we will lead Navy Medicine in quality, patient-centered care as we continue to strengthen existing partnerships, we will develop new relationships within our community, our sister services, and Pacific nations. We will work jointly to be ready for any contingency and we will improve upon efficiencies. Naval Hospital Guam, I feel truly blessed, thank-you for the opportunity to serve you," said Comlish after relieving Plummer of his post.

During the ceremony, Plummer was awarded the Legion of Merit presented to him by Rear Admiral Bruce L. Gillingham, commander, Navy Medicine West.

Plummer's next assignment will be as the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Liaison Officer to the Defense Health Agency. ***(PR)***

State of the Commonwealth Address

PHOTOS by JAYSON CAMACHO

Members of the House of Representatives listen to Gov. Eloy S. Inos deliver his first State of the Commonwealth Address.

The 18th Commonwealth Legislature's senators listen to Gov. Eloy S. Inos' State of the Commonwealth Address while some write down notes.

Members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, along with chairman Ramon B. Camacho, far right, listen to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) deliver his remark.

Justices and judges of the CNMI Judiciary attend Gov. Eloy S. Inos' first ever State of the Commonwealth Address.

From left to right: Jerome Aldan from Northern Islands Mayor's Office, Mayor of Tinian Ray Dela Cruz, Saipan Mayor's Office special adviser Henry Hofschneider, and Saipan Mayor Marian Tudela listen to the State of Commonwealth Address.

Special guests listen to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) remarks.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) doing the call to order.

Department of Public Safety color guards retrieve the flags before the end of the ceremony.

Business

Obama picks ex-P&G head to lead Veterans Affairs

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama plans to nominate former Procter & Gamble executive Robert McDonald as the next Veterans Affairs secretary, as the White House seeks to shore up an agency beset by treatment delays and struggling to deal with an influx of new veterans returning from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

An administration official said Obama would announce McDonald's appointment Monday. If confirmed by the Senate, McDonald would succeed Eric Shinseki, the retired four-star general who resigned last month as the scope of the issues at veterans' hospitals became apparent.

In tapping McDonald for the post, Obama is signaling his desire to install a VA chief with broad management experience. McDonald also has a military background, graduating near the top of his class at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and serving as a captain in the Army, primarily in the 82nd Airborne Division.

The administration official insisted on anonymity in order to confirm McDonald's appointment before the president's announcement.

McDonald resigned abruptly from Procter & Gamble in May 2013 amid pressure from investors concerned that he was not doing enough to boost the company's performance.

McDonald, who had spent 33 years at the consumer products giant, said at the time of his retirement that he believed constant speculation about his job status had become too much of a distraction to the company.

The VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the country, with more than 300,000 fulltime employees and nearly 9 million veterans enrolled for care. But the agency has come under intense scrutiny in recent months amid reports of patients dying while waiting for appointments and of treatment delays in VA facilities nationwide.

GM crash victim payment plan won't have limit

DETROIT (AP)—When Kenneth Feinberg announces the terms of General Motors' plan to pay victims of crashes caused by bad ignition switches, he'll have an open wallet.

Feinberg, the country's most well-known compensation expert, is scheduled to reveal the terms Monday, and GM CEO Mary Barra has said there will be no cap on payments.

Also, GM won't have any say in Feinberg's awards, she told a U.S. House subcommittee during a hearing earlier this month.

"He will have complete independence," Barra said under questioning. "General Motors wants to reach with this compensation program everyone who lost a loved one due to this issue, or who suffered serious physical injury."

The company says the faulty switches are responsible for at least 54 crashes and more than 13 deaths, but lawyers and lawmakers say the death toll is closer to 100, with hundreds of injuries. That would send GM's payments into the millions, if not billions of dollars. GM was sitting on a $27 billion cash stockpile as of March 31. So far, it has announced or taken charges of $2 billion for recall expenses.

To end unfair vacation policy, point out the cost

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

QUESTION: In our company, most people get away with taking much more vacation than they should. These employees have bosses who allow them to keep their own records, while the rest of us work for managers who monitor our use of leave. As a result, we get less time off than everyone else.

Although policy states that leave requests must be approved, most managers simply put their employees on the honor system. Unfortunately, a lot of these people aren't very honorable. One guy from another department took off an entire week to move and never recorded it. But when my co-worker moved, she had to use vacation time.

Our boss agrees that this situation is unfair. However, she doesn't want to break the rules, and she has no power to change the behavior of her peers. Human resources would normally be expected to enforce the leave policy, but our HR manager has his own employees on the honor system. What can be done about this?

ANSWER: Through either naivety or laziness, these misguided managers have mistakenly chosen to rely on trust in an area where oversight is required. Whenever something of value goes unsupervised, ethically challenged people will always be tempted to cheat. This applies to cash, vacation time, or a basket of candy left on the porch for Halloween.

Since this problem can only be resolved by top management, you will need to raise awareness at the executive level. Under normal circumstances, human resources would be your natural ally. But since that option is out, perhaps your boss can convince other compliant managers to become advocates for enforcing the policy.

While fairness is undeniably important, nothing grabs the attention of executives like focusing on financials. For that reason, policy supporters should clearly demonstrate how much all this free leave time is costing the company. Once management sees the price tag, the honor system may quickly become a thing of the past.

Q: One of my staff members constantly tells her colleagues how to do their work. "Tracy" is a good employee, but this domineering attitude alienates her co-workers. I have hinted to Tracy that she needs to improve her communication skills, but that hasn't done any good. Our disciplinary policy allows managers to write up difficult employees as "unable to supervise." Should that be my next step?

A: If you believe you are "unable to supervise" Tracy, it may be time to take a long, hard look in the mirror. Ironically, she seems to be more comfortable giving feedback than you are. So instead of dropping hints or taking disciplinary action, you need to put on your manager hat and initiate some performance coaching.

Start by helping Tracy understand the problems created by her dictatorial behavior, then work with her to develop an improvement plan. If she makes no effort to change, a formal warning may eventually be in order. But you should not conclude that you are "unable to supervise" her until you actually attempt to do so.

Nation

Bumpy road ahead for legal pot in Washington

SEATTLE (AP)—Pete O'Neil saw Washington's legalization of marijuana in 2012 as a path to retirement, or at least to his kids' college tuition.

He's paid tens of thousands of dollars in rent on possible locations for a pot-shop chain, hired lawyers and picked out flooring. But now the nation's second legal recreational marijuana industry is about to start without him.

O'Neil struck out in Washington's lottery for coveted pot-shop licenses. He has unsuccessfully tried to buy companies that scored a lucky number. In frustration, he's turning what would have been his Seattle retail store into a medical marijuana dispensary.

"Our company is bleeding money, and I haven't sold a single joint," O'Neil says.

As Washington plows toward the legal pot promised land, it's finding that getting the cannabis market off the ground has been even tougher than anyone imagined.

Among the frustrated are growers who have been waiting months for permission to start raising their bar-coded plants; advocates who wish more public health messaging had been done by now; and would-be pot vendors like O'Neil who say bad luck, minor oversights on their applications, or errors by state officials have torpedoed otherwise promising efforts.

AP

In this June 23, 2014 photo, Pete O'Neil, right, stands in his soon-to-be-open medical marijuana dispensary in Seattle with three of his employees.

Washington's Liquor Control Board expects to issue the first 15 to 20 marijuana retail licenses July 7, months later than first expected, but it's not clear how many of those shops are ready to open. Board staff said last week only one shop in Seattle is prepared for its final inspection.

Randy Simmons, the board's legal pot project manager, predicts "a bumpy road," with an initial shortage of stores and marijuana alike. Many businesses that got lucky in the pot-shop lottery in April have since been disqualified, such as by being too close to schools or playgrounds. Others haven't finished building or made deals to buy pot from licensed growers.

Benghazi case unfolds against political backdrop

WASHINGTON (AP)—The first prosecution arising from the Benghazi attacks is playing out in the federal courthouse blocks from both the White House and Capitol Hill, an appropriate setting for a case that has drawn stark lines between President Barack Obama and Republicans in Congress.

The criminal proceedings could provide new insights into the 2012 attacks that killed four Americans and will serve as the latest test of the U.S. legal system's ability to handle terrorism suspects captured overseas. Unfolding during an election year, the case against alleged mastermind Ahmed Abu Khattala could also help shape the legacies of Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder, and spill over into the potential 2016 presidential candidacy of Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Even as the court case slogs forward, it may be challenging for the public to untangle the law from the politics, given how prominent the attacks on the diplomatic compound in the eastern Libyan city have become in U.S. political discourse.

"What's going to matter to the public more than anything else is the result, and I think it's going to only diffuse some of the ongoing Benghazi conspiracy theories if the Obama administration is going to be able to successfully obtain a conviction in this case," said American University law professor Stephen Vladeck, a national security law expert.

Still, he said, the case raises the same legal issues as past terrorism prosecutions and should not by itself be viewed as a referendum on the Obama administration.

"The story of this case is not the story of the Obama administration's reaction to Benghazi," he added. "The story of this case is those who were responsible for Benghazi and those who need to be held accountable for the four deaths that resulted."

A 10-minute court appearance amid tight security Saturday was the American public's first concrete sense of Abu Khatalla, the Libyan militant accused by the U.S. government of being a ringleader of the fiery assault on Sept. 11, 2012.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: 9 shot on Bourbon Street in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Two men exchanged gunfire early Sunday on the city's always-crowded Bourbon Street in the celebrated French Quarter and nine people were shot in the crossfire, including two who were critically wounded, police said. Images captured from a surveillance camera above a bar showed people running down the famous street in the chaos of the shooting at 2:45 a.m.. Police and emergency workers responded immediately and attended to victims as other revelers looked on. New Orleans Police Chief Ronal Serpas said six victims were hospitalized in stable condition. The other victim's condition was not available. Some of them were tourists. Their names have not been released.

2 dead, including rescuer, at Washington falls

PILCHUCK FALLS, Wash. (AP)—A search and rescue worker died over the weekend trying to save another man who fell 100 feet at Pilchuck Falls in western Washington. Skagit County authorities say the hiker also died Saturday night. A friend who got in trouble himself while trying to rescue the 25-year-old hiker was rescued. The accident happened about 36 miles northwest of Seattle when the two men were separated from their hiking group and tried to make their way down to the falls near Lake Cavanaugh.

Asia

PH court gives not guilty plea for senator

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine anti-graft court entered a not guilty plea Monday for the second of three prominent senators arraigned in the country's biggest corruption trial in more than a decade.

Senator Jinggoy Estrada, son of former president and now Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada, refused to enter a plea during his arraignment for plunder, prompting the court to enter a plea on his behalf. He allegedly pocketed 183 million pesos ($4.2 million) in kickbacks from a scam that diverted millions of dollars form anti-poverty and development funds allotted to lawmakers' pet projects.

The high-profile prosecutions bolster President Benigno Aquino III's campaign to fight high-profile corruption that has plagued the nation of 97 million for decades. The problem has festered amid a culture of impunity among powerful politicians and their allies, weak law enforcement and a notoriously slow justice system. Still, it's unclear whether the charges will lead to convictions, which have been rare in major cases.

AP

Philippine Senator Jinggoy Estrada is escorted as he arrives at the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court to attend to his arraignment in suburban Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on Monday, June 30, 2014.

"I am sorry your honor, I refuse to enter a plea (because) I have a pending petition before the Supreme Court," Estrada told the court. Estrada last week petitioned the Supreme Court to stop the proceedings in the anti-graft court, saying the charges were politically motivated and his constitutional right to due process was violated.

Estrada has said he and his co-accused Senator Ramon Revilla Jr. are being singled out because they had expressed intentions of running for higher office in national elections in 2016. The two opposition allies are both actors. Revilla, who allegedly received 224 million pesos ($5.1 million) in kickbacks, also refused to enter a plea during his arraignment on Thursday.

The third senator, Juan Ponce Enrile, also allegedly received 172 million pesos ($3.94 million) in kickbacks, but an arrest warrant has not yet been issued for the 90-year-old former senate president.

North Korea preparing to try 2 American tourists

TOKYO (AP)—North Korea said Monday it is preparing to try two Americans who entered the country as tourists for carrying out what it says were hostile acts against the country. Though a small number of U.S. citizens visit North Korea each year as tourists, the State Department strongly advises against it.

Investigations into Americans Matthew Todd Miller and Jeffrey Edward Fowle concluded that suspicions about their hostile acts have been confirmed by evidence and their testimonies, Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said in a short report.

KCNA said North Korea is making preparations to bring them before a court. It did not specify what the two did that was considered hostile or illegal, or what kind of punishment they might face. It also did not say when the trial would begin.

Fowle arrived in the county on April 29. North Korea's state media said in June that authorities were investigating him for committing acts inconsistent with the purpose of a tourist visit.

Diplomatic sources said Fowle was detained for leaving the Bible in his hotel room. But a spokesman for Fowle's family said the 56-year-old from Ohio was not on a mission for his church. His wife and three children said they miss him very much and "are anxious for his return home," according to a statement after his detention that was provided by a spokesman for the family.

KCNA said Miller, 24, entered the country April 10 with a tourist visa, but tore it up at the airport and shouted that he wanted to seek asylum. A large number of Western tourists visited Pyongyang in April to run in the annual Pyongyang Marathon or attend related events. Miller came at that time, but tour organizers say he was not planning to join the marathon.

Big turnout in HK democracy vote as Beijing fumes

HONG KONG (AP)—An informal referendum aimed at bolstering support for greater democracy in Hong Kong wound down Sunday after drawing nearly 800,000 votes and the ire of Beijing, which denounced it as a political farce.

Hong Kongers used the straw poll to express their desire for greater say in choosing their leader.

The vote is part of a campaign by activists in the southern Chinese city to ratchet up the pressure on authorities for democratic reform that could ultimately lead to a mass protest paralyzing the city's financial district.

Hong Kong, a freewheeling capitalist enclave of 7.2 million, passed from British to Chinese control in 1997 with the promise that it could retain a high degree of control over its own affairs under the principle of "one country, two systems."

Beijing has pledged to allow Hong Kongers to elect their next leader in 2017, but is balking at letting them nominate candidates. China's communist leaders instead insist all candidates must be vetted by a Beijing-friendly committee, like the one that has handpicked the city's leaders since British rule ended.

Beijing has slammed the poll by organizers of the Occupy Central with Love and Peace movement as illegal, and the state-run Global Times newspaper blasted it as "mincing ludicrousness."

Organizers said after voting ended Sunday evening that after excluding duplicate votes, some 787,767 ballots were cast over 10 days. Voters, who were required to submit their identity card numbers, cast ballots online, through a smartphone app or at polling stations.

The government of Hong Kong, which has 3.5 million registered voters, said in a statement that the unofficial referendum has "no legal effect."

Voters had a choice of three proposals on democratic reform, all of which included so-called public nomination.

World

Al-Qaida splinter declares new Islamic caliphate

BAGHDAD (AP)—The al-Qaida breakaway group that has seized much of northeastern Syria and huge tracts of neighboring Iraq formally declared the establishment of a new Islamic state on Sunday and demanded allegiance from Muslims worldwide.

With brutal efficiency, the Sunni extremist group has carved out a large chunk of territory that has effectively erased the border between Iraq and Syria and laid the foundations of its proto-state. But the declaration, made on the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, could trigger a wave of infighting among the Sunni militant factions that formed a loose alliance in the blitz across Iraq and impact the broader international jihadist movement, especially the future of a-Qaida.

The spokesman for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant declared the group's chief, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, as the leader of the new caliphate, or Islamic state, and called on Muslims everywhere, not just those in areas under the organization's control, to swear loyalty to al-Baghdadi and support him.

"The legality of all emirates, groups, states and organizations becomes null by the expansion of the caliph's authority and the arrival of its troops to their areas," said the spokesman, Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, in an audio statement posted online. "Listen to your caliph and obey him. Support your state, which grows every day."

Al-Adnani loosely defined the Islamic state's territory as running from northern Syria to the Iraqi province of Diyala—a vast stretch of land straddling the border that is already largely under the Islamic State's control. He also said that with the establishment of the caliphate, the group was changing its name to just the Islamic State, dropping the mention of Iraq and the Levant.

Muslim extremists have long dreamed of recreating the Islamic state, or caliphate, that ruled over the Middle East, much of North Africa and beyond in various forms over the course of Islam's 1,400-year history.

It was unclear what immediate impact the declaration would have on the ground in Syria and Iraq, though experts predicted it could herald infighting among the Sunni militants who have joined forces with the Islamic State in its fight against Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and his Shiite-led government.

"Now the insurgents in Iraq have no excuse for working with ISIS if they were hoping to share power with ISIS," said Aymenn al-Tamimi, an analyst who specializes in Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria, using one of several acronyms for the Islamic State. "The prospect of infighting in Iraq is increased for sure."

Syria activists: 7,000 killed in rebel infighting

BEIRUT (AP)—Up to 7,000 people, mostly rebels fighting to overthrow President Bashar Assad, have been killed in infighting among rival Islamic groups in Syria across opposition-held territory in the north, an activist group said in a report Sunday.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says it has documented 7,000 deaths as a result of the rebel-on-rebel violence since January, when infighting erupted in northern Syria. The death toll also included 650 civilians who got caught in the crossfire of the fighting between the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front and its rival, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant—a group which formally broke with al-Qaida earlier this year and has in recent weeks become a major fighting force in neighboring Iraq.

The Observatory has been documenting the Syrian conflict through a network of activists inside Syria since it started in March 2011 as largely peaceful protest against Assad's rule. It turned into an armed uprising after some opposition supporters picked up arms to fight a brutal government crackdown on dissent. It gradually became a civil war, in which more than 160,000 people have been killed, according to activists, and nearly a third of Syria's population of 23 million has been displaced.

In Sunday's report, the Observatory said its activists on the ground have the names of 5,641 rebels who have been killed in infighting. The names of another 1,200 dead fighters have not been confirmed. Up to 2,196 fighters who have been killed in clashes, suicide bombings and other rival attacks belonged to the Islamic State, while 2,764 were killed on the side of the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front and other Islamic groups fighting alongside it, the Observatory also said. The remainder of the dead were members of other groups.

The two rebel factions have been engaged in deadly infighting in opposition-held territory in several provinces in northern and eastern Syria, along the border with Turkey and Iraq, including Aleppo, Raqqa, Hassakeh and the oil-rich province of Deir el-Zour. The infighting over territory and strategic facilities—including oil-fields—that rebel groups captured together from government forces, has undermined the rebels' larger goal of toppling Assad.

The Syrian leader secured a third, seven-year mandate at a presidential election earlier this month.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ukraine president talks to Putin, Merkel, Hollande

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko tried to keep his peace plan to settle the conflict with pro-Russian separatists on track in a four-way phone call Sunday with Russian President Vladimir Putin and the leaders of France and Germany.The two-hour conversation came ahead of a Monday deadline that European Union leaders set for Russia and the separatists to take steps to ease the violence, warning that otherwise they were ready "at any time" to impose further punitive measures. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande encouraged the Ukrainian and Russian presidents to work on meeting the EU conditions, Hollande's office said in a statement. The EU's demands included the return of three border checkpoints to Ukrainian control, verification of the cease-fire by monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and talks to put Poroshenko's peace plan in place.

Israeli leader calls for independent Kurdistan

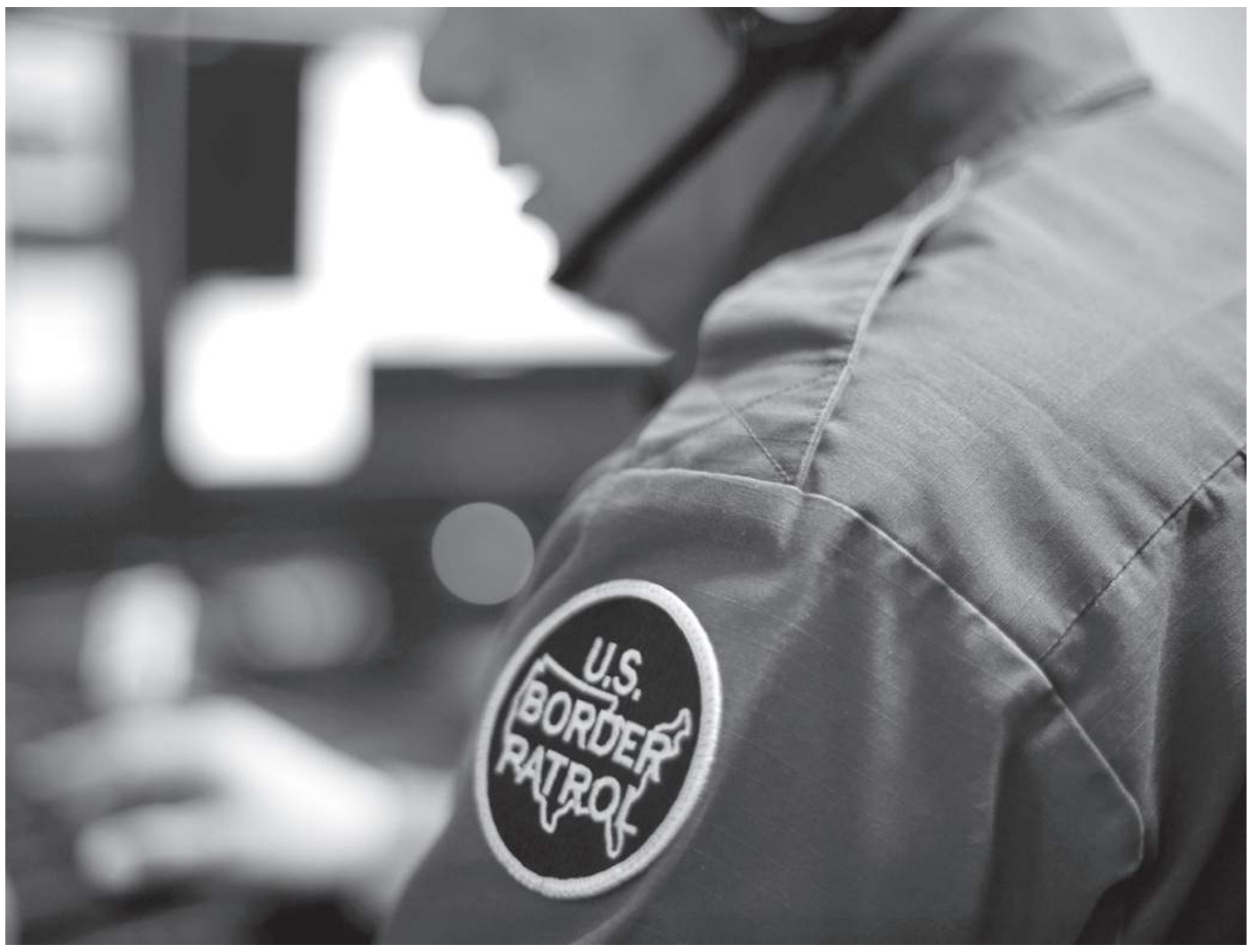
TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Seizing on the mayhem in Iraq, Israel's prime minister on Sunday called for the establishment of an independent Kurdistan as part of a broader alliance with moderate forces across the region, and asserted that Israel would have to maintain a long-term military presence in the West Bank to keep a jihadi juggernaut from powering its way to the outskirts of Tel Aviv. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu laid out his positions in a policy speech that marked one of the most detailed responses by a world leader to the lightning territorial gains made in recent weeks by Sunni extremists fighting in Iraq, and it underscored how profoundly events can ripple across an increasingly interlocked Middle East.

Focus

Border Patrol has lots of agents—in wrong places

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The downcast faces on computer screens are 1,500 miles away at a Border Patrol station in McAllen, Texas: a 20-year old Honduran woman arrested rafting across the Rio Grande and a 23-year-old man caught under similar circumstances.



AP

In this June 5, 2014 photo, a Border Patrol agent uses a headset and computer to conduct a long distance interview by video with a person arrested crossing the border in Texas, from a facility in San Diego. Hit with a dramatic increase of Central Americans crossing in South Texas, the Border Patrol is relieving staffing woes by enlisting agents in less busy sectors to process arrests through video interviews.

Four agents wearing headsets reel through a list of personal questions, spending up to an hour on each adult and even longer on children. On an average day, hundreds of migrants are questioned on camera by agents in San Diego and other stations on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The long-distance interviews—introduced last year in El Paso, Texas, and extended to California—are a response to the dramatic increase of Central Americans crossing the border in Texas that also has flooded immigration facilities with hundreds of women and children. The Border Patrol does not have the staff to process all the immigrants crossing in the Rio Grande Valley, but faraway colleagues have time to spare.

The remote video processing reveals a perpetual predicament that has long bedeviled the Border Patrol. Many agents wind up stationed in places where crossing activity is slowest because the Border Patrol struggles to keep up with constantly shifting migration patterns.

One example of the staffing mismatch: the roughly 2,500 agents in the San Diego sector arrested 97 immigrants illegally crossing the border on June 14, according to an internal document reviewed by The Associated Press. On the same day, the roughly 3,200 agents in the Rio Grande Valley made 1,422 arrests.

President Barack Obama will ask Congress for more than $2 billion to respond to the flood of immigrants illegally entering the U.S. through the Rio Grande Valley and for new powers to deal with returning unaccompanied children, a White House official said Saturday. A letter will be sent to Congress on Monday, said the official who was not authorized to speak by name and discussed the requests on condition of anonymity. The exact amount and how it will be spent will come after Congress returns from recess on July 7. Whether any funds will go toward border staffing is unknown.

In San Diego, the video processing is a welcome change of pace. Arrests are at 45-year lows and many agents go entire shifts without finding anyone. Cesar Rodriguez, who joined the Border Patrol in 2010, said eight hours fly by since he gave up his assignment watching a stretch of scrub-covered hills east of San Diego and took on a new assignment to process the immigrants via video.

"If there's nothing going on, what are you going to do? You're just staring at the fence," Rodriguez said in his new office, whose parking lot offers sweeping views of hillside homes in Tijuana, Mexico.

A few feet away, Victor Nunez says he interviewed a woman carrying a 4-month-old child and spent his last shift working on a group of 93 people that crossed the Rio Grande at once. Such activity was unheard of on his overnight shift patrolling the quiet mountains near San Diego.

"I feel like we're helping out our agents," said Nunez, who joined the Border Patrol in 2011. "It's a big problem going on there."

The McAllen station is designed to hold a few hundred people, but often teems with more than 1,000 who spill into hallways and outside. Migrants have been sent to stations in quieter parts of Texas, and they were overwhelmed. Overcrowding at the Laredo station prompted a visit from the fire marshal last month.

The shift to the Rio Grande Valley is part of a long-running trend where immigrants and smugglers change crossing locations faster than the government responds.

San Diego was the hot spot until the mid-1990s, when 1,000 agents were added there. After traffic moved to Arizona, staffing in Tucson ballooned under President George W. Bush, who doubled the Border Patrol close to its current size of more than 21,000 agents.

Some warn against bulking up in South Texas because smuggling routes will inevitably change along the 1,954-mile border.

"They don't want to transfer a mass amount of agents and open a gap somewhere else where we have control," said David Aguilar, the Border Patrol chief from 2004 to 2010.

Forced transfers must be negotiated with the National Border Patrol Council, the union which represents agents, and have not happened on a large scale.

The Border Patrol can move agents for 35 days—longer by mutual agreement—but those temporary assignments are expensive. More than 100 agents were sent to Rio Grande Valley this spring for short stays.

Voluntary transfers were an option but have not been used widely in South Texas. The Border Patrol began a campaign about 10 years ago, partly aimed at boosting morale, to offer more transfers if agents moved themselves. And, as agents quit or retire, the vast majority of new hires who replace them are now assigned to Rio Grande Valley.

The Border Patrol introduced video processing in El Paso in April 2013 to address the surge in Rio Grande Valley, where most border crossers are from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala and many are unaccompanied children. It expanded the processing to El Centro, California, in March, and to San Diego last month.

Between 230 and 500 people have been processed by video each day since it was introduced last year, but lack of detention space in Rio Grande Valley recently prompted authorities to fly migrants to El Paso and Arizona for processing, said Jackie Wasiluk, a spokeswoman for the Border Patrol's parent agency, Customs and Border Protection. The agency said Friday that it will also fly migrants to California for processing.

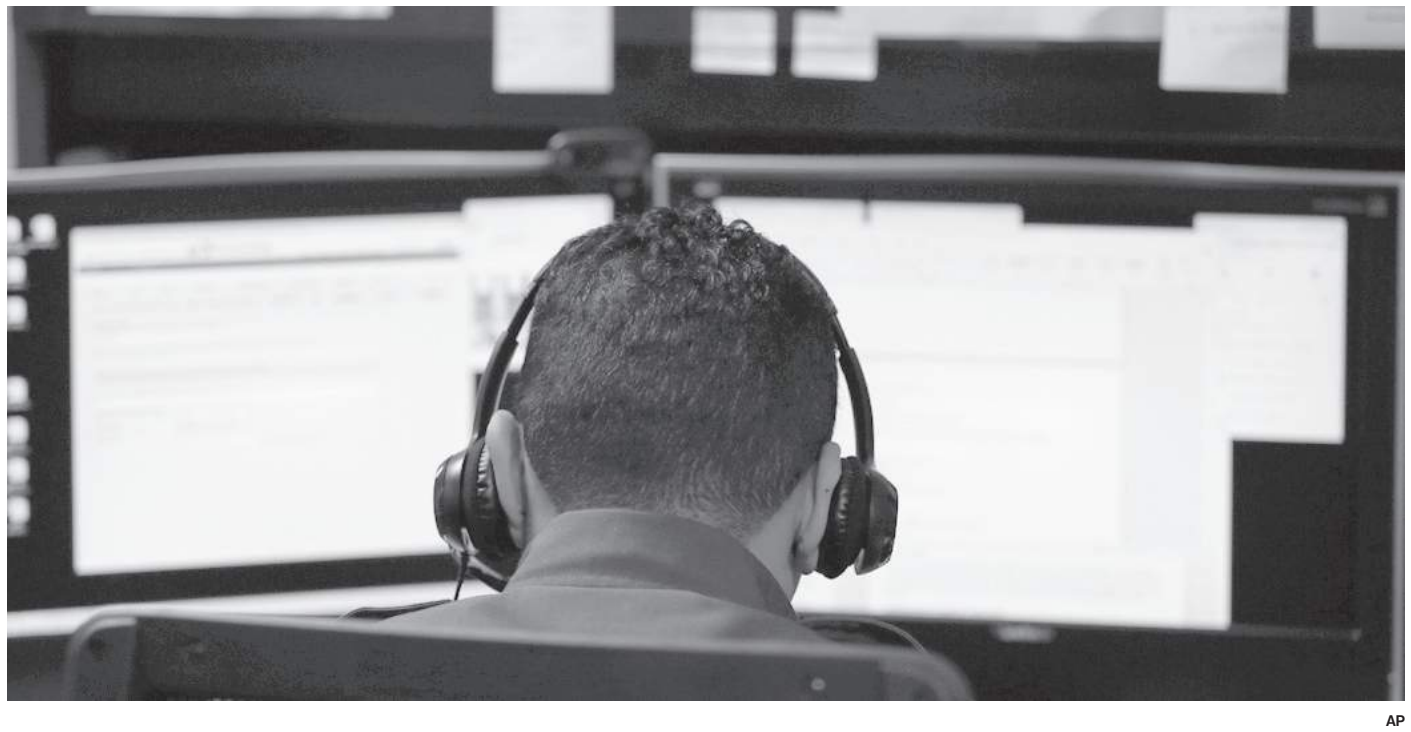
Costs are not an issue with video processing. Headsets and cameras are $70 apiece, and it's a small sacrifice to supervisors.

Agents use a long questionnaire that aims to establish identity—where they lived, where they went to school, where they went to church. Most migrants don't have identification, so U.S. authorities must convince consulates to issue passports. Otherwise, they can't be deported.

Throughout their shifts, agents trade instant messages with counterparts in Rio Grande Valley.

"If you have time, can you adjust the camera? It was too high. Ready for another case if you have one," typed Jake Garcia, a San Diego agent for five years.

His counterpart was talking to a group of migrants. Garcia swirled his chair for something rare in his new role: He took a break.



AP

In this June 5, 2014 photo, a Border Patrol agent uses a headset and computer to conduct a long distance interview by video with a person arrested crossing the border in Texas, from a facility in San Diego.

Overdrive

BMW 435i a high-priced delight

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Deciphering BMWs used to be an easy proposition: There was the compact 3-Series and midsize 5-Series sedans, the 6-Series coupe and full-size 7-Series sedan. SUVs get an X before their name.

But a recent avalanche of new products has forced BMW to change its naming conventions. And so, henceforth, all coupes and sedans with coupe-like styling will have names that start with even numbers, while all sedans and station wagons will have odd numbers.

This explains why BMW's all-new replacement for the 3 Series Coupe is known as the 435i Coupe.

No matter what its name, the 435i's tastefully sporty appearance remains true to its predecessors. It looks fast but distinguished. There are doses of aggressive styling on the car, such as the air intakes under the front bumper, but they never overwhelm the design.

The interior feels roomier than the 3-Series Coupe, and backseat legroom seems improved. As you'd expect, the seats are firm and supportive. The driving position is perfect.

Quality inside is impeccable. The 435i uses the same instrument panel as the 3-Series. If I were to fault the 435i, it would be because, despite the leather interior, there are no seat warmers. Also, there are motorized arms that present the seat belts to front seat passengers every time the car starts. It's a bit tacky and seems sure to break.

But such quibbles fade away once you fire up the turbocharged, 3.0-liter, six-cylinder engine. It's rated at 300 horsepower and 300 pound-feet of torque. BMW says that's enough power to reach 60 mph in 5.3 seconds with the six-speed manual transmission, and only 5 seconds with the eight-speed automatic.

Base 428i Coupes get a turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine rated at 240 horsepower and 255 pound-feet of torque. As a result, this coupe is slightly slower, reaching 60 mph in 5.7 seconds with both the six-speed manual or eight-speed automatic. Top speed is limited to 155 mph.

Both rear-wheel- and all-wheel-drive models are offered.

In an effort to be fuel-efficient, the 435i has an automatic start-stop function, which shuts down the engine when you come to a stop. The engine instantly restarts when you lift your foot from the brake. It may save fuel, but it's very annoying in stop-and-go driving. Thankfully, there's a button to shut off the feature, but you must remember to shut it off every time you start the car.

That can be a very easy thing to live with once you experience how beautifully this car performs.

The 435i's responsiveness will make you wonder whether the car has somehow connected to your synapses. Its steering is perfectly weighted and is very responsive. It gets progressively heavier as speed builds, making it easy to plant this car exactly where you want it. There's little body lean in corners, and massive amounts of grip.

To an experienced driver, driving the 435i is not unlike a trained musician playing a Stradivarius. Its impeccable manners will satisfy your soul like a beautifully played sonata.

Enhancing that experience is the Driving Dynamics Control switch, which changes the car's personality depending on your whim. The modes include Eco Pro, Comfort and Sport. The first mode is hardly worth mentioning, as it makes this car lethargic. The Comfort mode is surprisingly soft but well-suited for stretches of trashed tarmac. Sport firms up the ride nicely. There's even a Sport-Plus mode for track work.

Some of this car's natural athletic ability comes from the options list. The test car was heavily equipped with goodies, including the M Sport Package, Dynamic Handling Package, Premium Package and Technology Package.

As expected, all of this goodness comes at a price. Even for a BMW, the 435i's $60,625 MSRP was breathtaking. Keep in mind that this is a compact car without seat heaters or all-wheel drive.

But few cars come close to matching its many abilities, not to mention its handsome form.

So no matter what the name on the trunk lid of this coupe, you'll call the 2014 BMW 435i amazingly fun.

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 BMW 435I:

- Engine: Turbocharged 3.0-liter six-cylinder
- Horsepower/torque: 300/295
- Wheelbase: 110.6 inches
- Length: 182.6 inches
- Weight: 3,610 pounds
- Cargo space: 15.7 cubic feet
- EPA rating (city/highway): 22/32 mpg
- Fuel consumption: 24 mpg
- Fuel type: Premium
- NHTSA safety rating: Not rated
- Base price, base model: $40,500
- Base price, test model: $46,000
- Price as tested, including destination charge: $60,625

The 2014 BMW 435i is the brand's all-new replacement for the 3 Series Coupe. MCT

Three approaches for dealing with emergency

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I read a recent article discussing GM's problems with their faulty ignition switch. You have given the advice in the past to turn off the ignition if the throttle sticks. This was mentioned several times when "unintended acceleration" was a common topic in the news. Does the information in this article change that advice?

ANSWER: Very timely and important question. In past columns, I have written about how to deal with unintended acceleration/stuck throttle situations. In short, a driver has three tools to mitigate the threat of crashing: Push the brake pedal as hard as humanly possible, shift the transmission into neutral, or turn off the ignition.

With the recent news regarding unintended "ignition off" scenarios in certain GM vehicles, it's well worth revisiting this issue.

First off, even if the engine is not running and the ignition switch is in the off position, the brakes and steering remain functional. Without power assist provided by engine operation, considerably more physical effort will be required to brake and steer the vehicle, but it will still stop and turn.

Shifting the transmission into neutral in response to the threat from a stuck throttle or unintended acceleration will disconnect the engine from the drivetrain while maintaining power assist to the steering and brakes. While it may seem potentially destructive to the engine, most modern engine management systems have limiters to prevent the engine from over-revving in neutral by cutting spark and/or fuel to limit engine speed.

Obviously, switching the ignition off will stop any type of unintended acceleration or stuck throttle. And doing so will not lock the steering. The ignition switch cannot be turned to the locked position unless the transmission has been shifted into park.

To address your specific question as to turning off the ignition in response to unintended acceleration or a stuck throttle, keep in mind that the air bags and supplemental restraint systems are not instantaneously disabled if the ignition is switched off. These systems have some type of backup power supplies in case the battery is disconnected or destroyed in the first instant of a crash. These systems, often based on a capacitor storing enough electrical charge to deploy the air bags, can keep the airbags operational for several seconds after loss of battery power — but just as obviously, not long enough to completely deal with an unintended acceleration or stuck-throttle scenario.

With today's motor vehicles, the best response to unintended acceleration or some type of stuck throttle is to simply shift the transmission into neutral, deal with the situation by steering and braking to a safe stop, and then turning off the key. Every motorist should mentally anticipate this scenario and understand the steps necessary to safely deal with it.

A little forethought and practice can prevent unintended acceleration or a stuck throttle from ending in tragedy.

Q: I have a 1994 Honda Accord with less than 48,000 original miles. For the past five years, it has been suggested to have the timing belt replaced because of the age of the car. I just hate to touch something that isn't broken. I do understand if it does fail, I will be in bad shape. Are there any signs that I could look for to let me know it needs replacement?

A: Yes, the engine suddenly stops running! And since this is a so-called interference engine, expensive valve-to-piston contact and damage can occur.

It is possible to inspect the timing belt by removing the top engine cover, turning the crankshaft with a ratchet and visually examining the belt for wear, damage or contamination from oil or coolant.

But since Honda's recommendation is timing belt replacement every 72 months, it's long overdue. I'd suggest having the timing belt and water pump replaced as preventive maintenance. But it's your call.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, *is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

Life & Style

Pharrell's 'Happy' continues run at BET Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

Pharrell's "Happy" is keeping a smile on the musician's face: The song won video of the year Sunday at the BET Awards, the top prize in a show marking the best in black entertainment.

His win came in the second hour of the three-hour-plus ceremony that featured performances by the multitalented Pharrell as well as Lil Wayne and Usher. Last year, the network didn't announce the top award in the jam-packed show.

Pharrell thanked his family, fans who elevated the song to No. 1 and BET for its support.

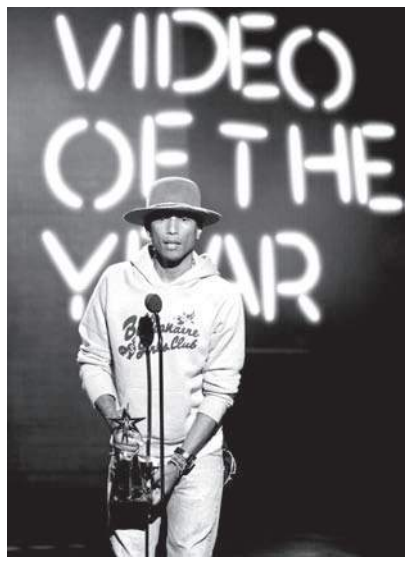
"(BET) allows us as black people to be different and do what we do," he told the crowd. "You guys keep the lights on for us."

The multitalented Pharrell, who also won best male R&B/pop artist, kicked off the show with a playful performance of "Come Get It Bae" featuring the reclusive Missy Elliott. Host Chris Rock also succeeded with back-to-back jokes, helping take attention away from a fatal shooting and a separate stabbing at unsanctioned parties celebrating the ceremony.

One person was killed and five injured in separate incidents ahead of the show at the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live, Los Angeles police said. The events were "unauthorized and unaffiliated with the BET Awards," BET said in a statement.

The death and four of the injuries followed gunfire early Sunday at a restaurant, Officer Drake Madison said. Separately, a man was stabbed in the stomach Saturday night at a nightclub.

Rock didn't mention the violence. He won over the audience with jokes about Donald Sterling, the hit series "Scandal" and rapper Rick Ross. He called the BET Awards the "black World Cup."



AP

Pharrell Williams accepts the award for video of the year for "Happy" at the BET Awards at the Nokia Theatre on Sunday, June 29, 2014, in Los Angeles.

The show featured a medley of hits from Usher and a performance by Chris Brown, who recently was released from jail. Brown sang and danced his signature moves to his latest Top 10 hit, "Loyal."

John Legend sang his groove "You and I" and was joined by rising newcomer Jhene Aiko, who won over the crowd by singing "The Worst" as Legend played piano.

As the show kicked off, a tearful August Alsina, nominated for four honors, won the night's first award for best new artist.

"I represent the struggle," the New Orleans newcomer said onstage. "This award is not for me, it's for the people."

Drake, Beyonce and Jay Z were top nominees with five each. Drake, who was originally set to perform, did not attend, BET said Sunday. He won best male hip-hop artist.

A representative for Beyonce also said the singer wouldn't attend, and her husband's rep wouldn't divulge if Jay Z would be there or not. Their attendance had nothing to do with the violence at the weekend parties.

Beyonce and Jay Z launched a co-headlining stadium tour days ago. She is nominated for best female R&B/pop artist, with little competition aside from Rihanna.

Other performers set to sing Sunday include Mary J. Blige and Robin Thicke, who is set to release his new album, "Paula"—an ode to his wife, Paula Patton, whom he is separated from—on Tuesday.

Nicki Minaj and Iggy Azalea—whose anthemic "Fancy" has spent its fifth week on top of the Billboard charts—will compete for best female hip-hop artist, an award Minaj has won consecutively for four years.

Lionel Richie will be honored with a lifetime achievement award at the show, where presenters include Kerry Washington, Kevin Hart and Gabrielle Union.

Lupita Nyong'o, who won an Oscar for "12 Years a Slave," was named best actress.

'Designing Women' star Meshach Taylor dies at 67

Meshach Taylor, who played a lovable ex-convict surrounded by boisterous Southern belles on the sitcom "Designing Women" and appeared in numerous other TV and film roles, died of cancer at age 67, his agent said Sunday.

Taylor died Saturday at his home near Los Angeles, according to agent Dede Binder.

Taylor got an Emmy nod for his portrayal of Anthony Bouvier on "Designing Women" from 1986 to 1993. Then he costarred for four seasons on another successful comedy, "Dave's World," as the best friend of a newspaper humor columnist played by the series' star, Harry Anderson.

Taylor

Other series included the cult favorite "Buffalo Bill" and the popular Nickelodeon comedy "Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide."

Taylor's movie roles included a flamboyant window dresser in the 1987 comedy-romance "Mannequin" as well as "Damien: Omen II."

He guested on many series including "Hannah Montana," "The Unit," "Hill Street Blues," "Barney Miller," "Lou Grant," "The Drew Carey Show," and, in an episode that aired in January, "Criminal Minds," which stars Joe Mantegna, with whom Taylor performed early in his career as a fellow member of Chicago's Organic Theater Company. Taylor also had been a member of that city's Goodman Theatre.

The Boston-born Taylor started acting in community shows in New Orleans, where his father was dean of students at Dillard University. He continued doing roles in Indianapolis after his father moved to Indiana University as dean of the college of arts and sciences.

After college, Taylor got a job at an Indianapolis radio station, where he rose from a "flunky job" to Statehouse reporter, he recalled in an interview with The Associated Press in 1989.

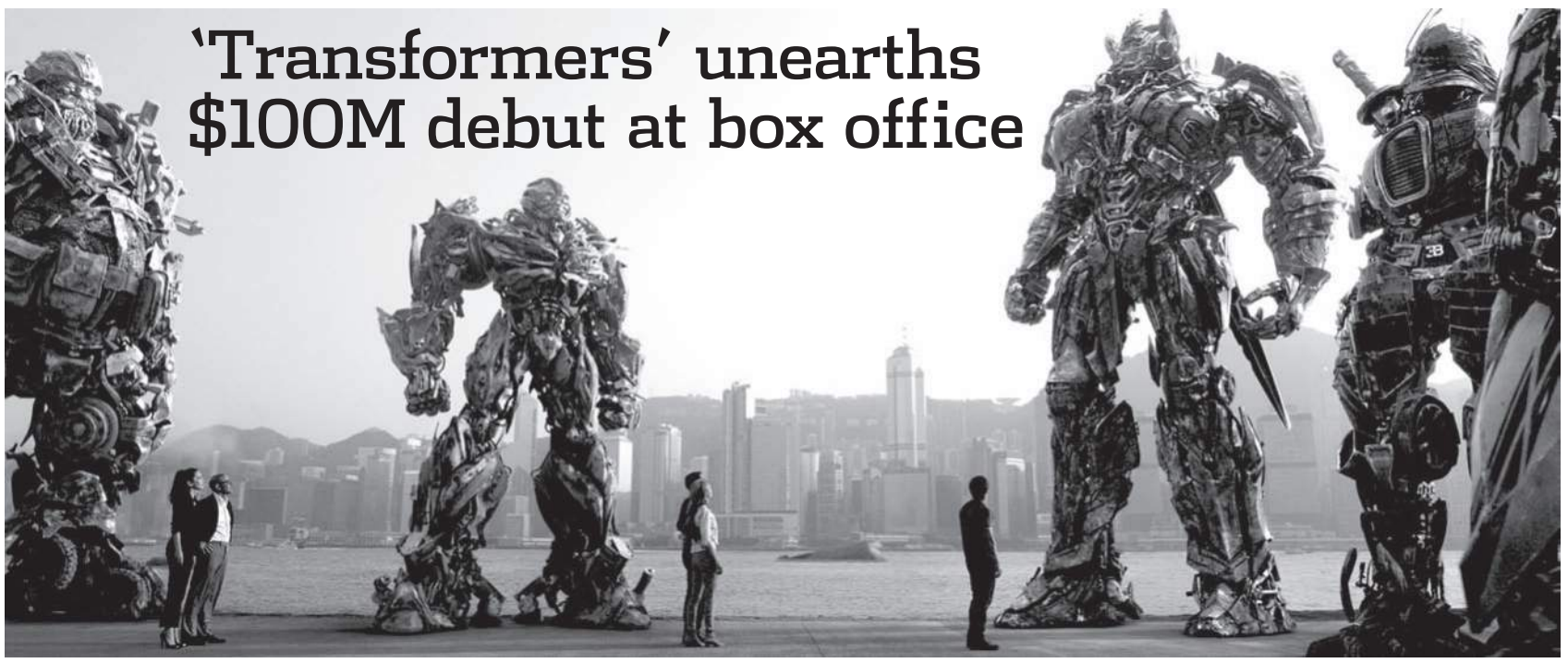
"It was interesting for a while," he said. "But once you get involved in Indiana politics you see what a yawn it is."

Resuming his acting pursuit, he set up a black arts theater to keep kids off the street, then joined the national touring company of "Hair." His acting career was launched.

After "Hair," he became a part of the burgeoning theater world in Chicago, where he stayed until 1979 before heading for Los Angeles.

Taylor is survived by his four children and his wife, Bianca Ferguson. ***(AP)***

'Transformers' unearths $100M debut at box office



AP

This photo released by Paramount Pictures shows, from left, Hound, Bingbing Li as Su Yueming, Stanley Tucci as Joshua Joyce, Bumblebee, Jack Reynor as Shane Dyson, Nicola Peltz as Tessa Yeager, Mark Wahlberg as Cade Yeager, Optimus Prime, Drift, and Crosshairs, in a scene from the film, "Transformers: Age of Extinction," from Paramount Pictures.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Transformers: Age of Extinction" is ruling the box office.

The fourth installment in filmmaker Michael Bay's morphing robots series earned $100 million in North America during its opening weekend, making it the biggest debut for a movie this year, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Paramount blockbuster outperformed "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" and its $95 million inauguration in April.

"Age of Extinction" also earned $201.3 million from 37 international territories, specifically making $90 million in China, where it was partially filmed and co-produced by partners like the state-owned China Film Group and the China Movie Channel.

"With almost half of the international total coming from China, it shows how important that marketplace is to the worldwide box office," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "This film has really capitalized on all fronts."

"Age of Extinction" stars Mark Wahlberg and Nicola Peltz as a human father-daughter duo who aid the shape-shifting robots from the Hasbro toy franchise. Besides the addition of a new human crew, the sequel also introduces the popular Transformers characters based on the likenesses of dinosaurs.

"I think putting Mark Wahlberg front and center accomplished what we wanted to do, and that's re-energize the franchise," Paramount vice chairman Rob Moore said. "He appeals to audiences, both critically and as an action star."

"Age of Extinction" topped the previous entry in the series, "Dark of the Moon," which took in $97.9 million during its opening weekend in 2011, but failed to eclipse the $108.9 million debut of the second film, "Revenge of the Fallen."

The first three "Transformers" films starred Shia LaBeouf as a teenager who befriends hulking alien robots Optimus Prime (voiced by Peter Cullen) and Bumblebee. The original 2007 film made $70.5 million and went on to domestically gross $319.2 million.

1. **"Transformers: Age Of Extinction," $100 million** *($201.3 million international).*
2. **"22 Jump Street," $15.4 million** *($9.6 million international).*
3. **"How To Train Your Dragon 2," $13.1 million** *($17.9 million).*
4. **"Think Like a Man Too," $10.4 million.**
5. **"Maleficent," $8.2 million** *($16 million international).*
6. **"Jersey Boys," $7.6 million** *($11 million international).*
7. **"Edge of Tomorrow," $5.2 million** *($6.9 million international).*
8. **"The Fault in Our Stars," $4.8 million** *($13 million international).*
9. **"X-Men: Days of Future Past," $3.3 million** *($6.2 million international).*
10. **"Chef," $1.6 million.**

Minaj at BET Awards: I was recently near death

Nicki Minaj performs at the BET Awards at the Nokia Theatre on Sunday, June 29, 2014, in Los Angeles.

AP

Nicki Minaj told the crowd at the BET Awards that she was close to death recently—an experience that has helped her be herself.

The rapper rambled onstage when accepting her fifth consecutive win for best female hip-hop artist, where she thanked Lil Wayne for his support, talked about writing her own lyrics and about getting the credit she deserves in the industry.

"The other day, literally I didn't tell anybody this, I really thought I was about to die. Like, I was saying my prayers to die. And I didn't even want to call the ambulance because I thought, 'Well if I call the ambulance, it's going to be on TMZ,'" she said, as some of the audience laughed.

"And I would rather sit there and die," she added, looking to the crowd. "And it made me realize I don't care what anybody got to say. I'm going to do me."

Minaj performed her latest single, "Pills N Potions," and also won best group with her Young Money bandmates, which includes Lil Wayne and Drake.

A video of Beyonce and Jay Z performing "Partition" closed the BET Awards, which aired live from the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live on Sunday. ***(AP)***

Zendaya will no longer be playing Aaliyah in TV film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dust yourself off and try again Lifetime Network: Zendaya will no longer play Aaliyah in an upcoming film.

The 17-year-old Disney Channel star said Sunday that she pulled out of the project because "production-wise, (it) wasn't all the way there."

"Because it's someone that I honor and I respect so much, it has to be 128 percent, especially for all her fans, including myself," Zendaya said on her way into the BET Awards, where she's up for the Young Stars award. "I didn't feel like it was all the way there, so I didn't want to do that. And when the time comes when it's done right and it's 100 percent, by all means, I will be the first person there ready to go."

Lifetime announced Zendaya's participation two weeks ago. The announcement sparked anger from Aaliyah's family, who are not participating in the project.

The network tweeted Sunday: "We are sad Zendaya will no longer portray Aaliyah. Production is currently on hold."

Others on social media suggested that another actress should play the late singer, who died in 2001 at age 22.

AP

Zendaya arrives at the BET Awards at the Nokia Theatre on Sunday, June 29, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Zendaya defended winning the role in an interview with The Associated Press a day after the announcement. The 17-year-old said she wanted to show young people what Aaliyah was able to do.

"Of course it was hard" to pull out of the film, Zendaya said, "but again, I just think she deserves the world. She deserves something really, really incredible and so I would rather wait for that."

The biopic was scheduled to film this summer.

Dolly Parton thrills crowd at Glastonbury Festival

LONDON (AP)—Dolly Parton has won over legions of hard rock fans at England's Glastonbury Festival, one of the biggest events on the summer calendar.

The country legend played many of her hits to a crowd estimated at 150,000 people in her first ever performance at the often muddy festival at Worthy Farm in southwest England.

Parton told the crowd at the Sunday show that she had been waiting her entire lifetime for a chance to perform at Glastonbury. She penned and performed a special song about mud to mark the occasion, even though the day proved mostly sunny and fair.

Before the set, Parton told reporters she had to cut the length of her show to meet the festival timetable and decided to focus on her more upbeat songs.

"I thought, well, I can't do a bunch of sad, slow songs because everybody is drunk and high and we don't want to bring them down that bad, so there are two or three songs that they have to hear like maybe `Coat of Many Colors' and a few things that are a part of my whole life and my background," she said.

"But we've tried to do a set where we can kind of keep it moving pretty good."

The 68-year-old said she has no plans to stop touring, singing and writing.

"I hope to never retire and I'm up there now and I enjoy every bit of it," she said. "I wake up every day with new dreams, so I feel like I'm just starting out."

Metallica headlined Saturday's show, and Kasabian was highlighting the Sunday night show.

The Rolling Stones, Jay-Z, James Brown and other influential bands have performed at Glastonbury over the years.

AP

U.S singer Dolly Parton performs at Glastonbury music festival, England, Sunday, June 29, 2014.

1 dead, 5 hurt in California awards party violence

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One person was killed and five were injured in two separate incidents at parties ahead of the BET Awards that were not officially connected to the ceremony, Los Angeles police said Sunday.

Gunfire killed one person and wounded four others early Sunday at the Monalizza Restaurant & Banquet Hall, Officer Drake Madison said. It was not immediately clear whether the shooter attended the party or fired from outside, he said.

In a separate incident, a man was stabbed in the stomach Saturday night at the Lure nightclub, Madison said. Police are searching for suspects in both incidents at venues not in the same immediate area.

Madison said both parties were related to the BET Awards but not part of the official events. BET organizers say the events were not authorized or affiliated with the awards ceremony, and security is a top priority for all planned activities.

The awards are held in Los Angeles and will air live at 8 p.m. Eastern.

Woman who doesn't drink is weary of friends who do

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriends are always trying to get me drunk. I don't need alcohol to have a good time, and in fact, I rarely drink. They say I'm "no fun," which is probably true. But that's just who I am.

Although they never drink and drive, they drink a lot and are embarrassing when they sing loud, stumble on the dance floor and slur their words. I'm afraid if I get drunk I may say something hurtful to them, and they will no longer be my friends.

My boyfriend says they're not true friends if they want me to drink to excess. My college days are behind me. I am mature enough not to succumb to this peer pressure. Is my boyfriend right? Do I need new friends?

TEETOTALER IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR TEETOTALER: There are few things more unattractive than a person who is drunk. Your boyfriend may be right that you need some new friends, if yours can have a good time only if they use alcohol.

If I'm reading your letter correctly, it appears you may be their designated driver. My advice is to take yourself out of that equation, and if possible, socialize with them in situations that do not involve drinking. If that's not possible, then for your own sake, start cultivating friends with wider interests.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for 20 years. Before our two children started high school two years ago, we had a great marriage. Unfortunately, my wife has put our children's high school education above everything else. She's a classic "helicopter mom" who says that once the kids leave for college, our relationship will become great again.

As the months go by, I find myself being more of a father and a tutor than a husband and "intimate friend" to my wife. We have little in common with each other, little intimacy, and everything revolves around our children—not us.

I have talked to her about this, and we have seen a counselor and a priest who told my wife that what she's doing is wrong. But things are getting worse, not better.

Any suggestions on how to get the message across before we get totally separated or even divorced? Or am I the one who needs to see things differently?

NO HELICOPTER DAD

DEAR DAD: Your letter touches upon a conversation I have had several times over the last few years, and it involves whether helicopter parents are giving their children an advantage, or preventing them from developing social skills and independence. If your kids are having problems in school and need extra parental guidance, then I'm all for it. But if they aren't—and their teachers should be able to tell you that—then your wife isn't doing this because of their need but her own.

Because you say you're not sure your marriage will be intact by the time they graduate, I'm urging that you both have more marriage counseling NOW. I hate to see a 20-year marriage go down the drain, because that's where it's headed.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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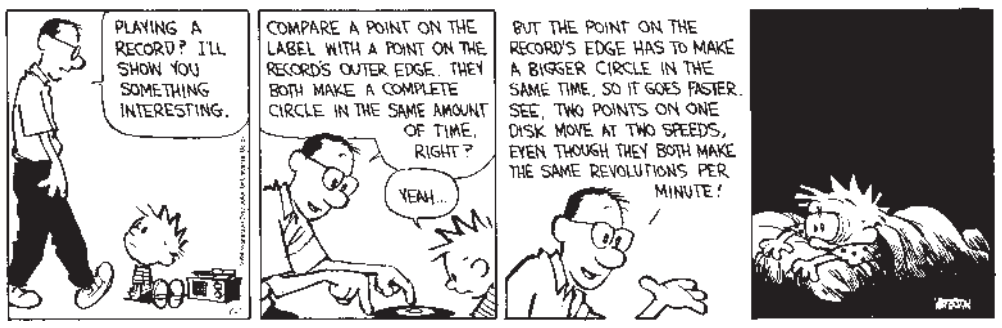
For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

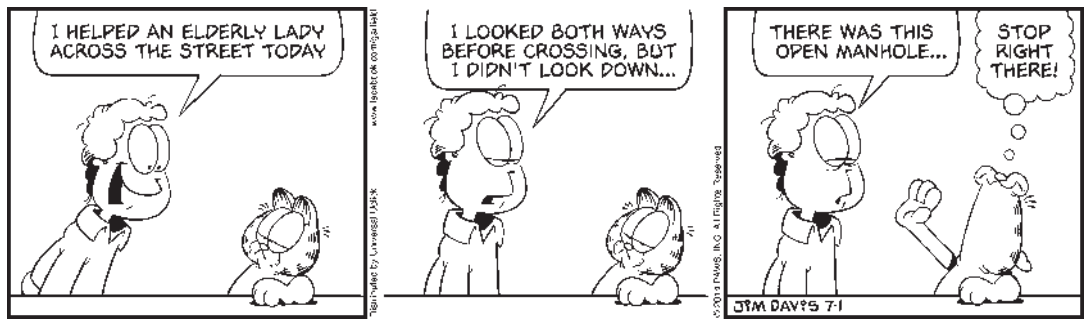
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


PLAYING A RECORD? I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING.
COMPARE A POINT ON THE LABEL WITH A POINT ON THE RECORD'S OUTER EDGE. THEY BOTH MAKE A COMPLETE CIRCLE IN THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME. RIGHT?
YEAH...
BUT THE POINT ON THE RECORD'S EDGE HAS TO MAKE A BIGGER CIRCLE IN THE SAME TIME, SO IT GOES FASTER. SEE, TWO POINTS ON ONE DISK MOVE AT TWO SPEEDS, EVEN THOUGH THEY BOTH MAKE THE SAME REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE!

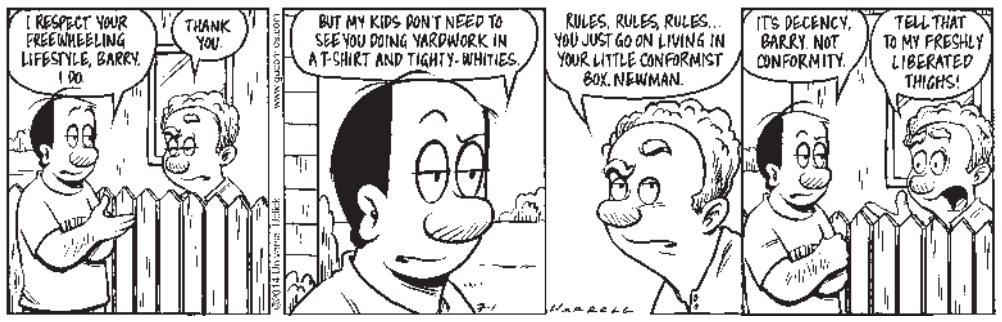
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I HELPED AN ELDERLY LADY ACROSS THE STREET TODAY
I LOOKED BOTH WAYS BEFORE CROSSING, BUT I DIDN'T LOOK DOWN...
THERE WAS THIS OPEN MANHOLE...
STOP RIGHT THERE!
JIM DAVIS 7-1

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I RESPECT YOUR FREEWHEELING LIFESTYLE, BARRY. I DO.
THANK YOU.
BUT MY KIDS DON'T NEED TO SEE YOU DOING YARDWORK IN A T-SHIRT AND TIGHTY-WHITIES.
RULES, RULES, RULES... YOU JUST GO ON LIVING IN YOUR LITTLE CONFORMIST BOX, NEWMAN.
IT'S DECENCY, BARRY. NOT CONFORMITY.
TELL THAT TO MY FRESHLY LIBERATED THIGHS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

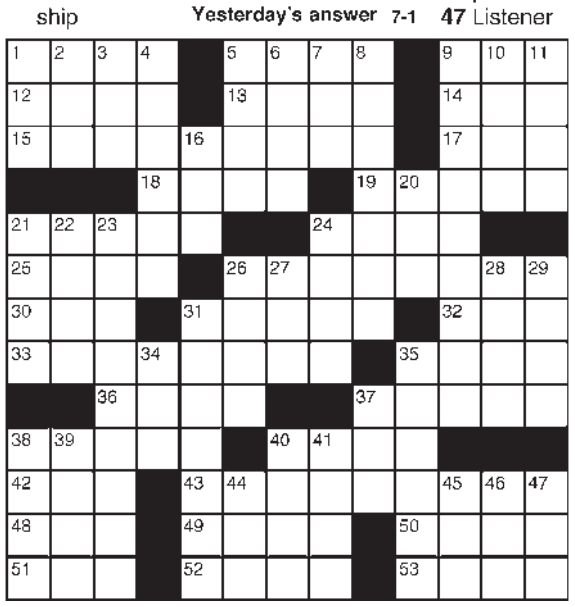
ACROSS
1 Did some weeding
5 "Shoo!"
9 Hem and —
12 Concept
13 Contented sound
14 Japanese sash
15 Fibs
17 Play on words
18 Genie's home
19 Encounters
21 Make diet-friendly
24 Joint inflammation
25 "Handsome — ..."
26 Small songbirds
30 "Platoon" site, for short
31 Sends via USPS
32 Rotation duration
33 Leadership
35 Disencumbers
36 Parliamentarian
37 Visitor
38 Grant's successor
40 Put into words
42 PC key
43 "Dessert" for the apologetic
48 Marseilles monarch
49 Chills and fever
50 Couch
51 Ruby or Sandra
52 Oodles
53 Rip

DOWN
1 Smack
2 Praise in verse
3 Conger, for one
4 South-fork's city
5 Unwanted email
6 Robert of "I Spy"
7 "Exodus" hero
8 Quakes
9 "Cross my heart" partner
10 Touch
11 Victories
16 Perched
20 One side of the Urals (Abbr.)
21 Bell sound
22 Birthright barterer
23 Connection via kin
24 Big wind
26 Beach stuff
27 Snapshot
28 Bankrolls
29 Method (Abbr.)
31 Sheriff
34 Fawn's mama
35 Least courteous
37 Hodges of baseball
38 Tough
39 Lotion additive
40 Lewd material
41 Lincoln and Vigoda
44 Playwright Betti
45 "The Raven" writer
46 "— picture paints ..."
47 Listener

Solution time: 22 mins.

B	O	O	B	■	L	O	C	■	D	O	F	F
A	L	P	A	C	I	N	O	■	E	L	I	A
G	E	T	S	E	V	E	N	■	S	I	L	T
■	■	■	A	N	Y	■	V	R	O	O	M	S
D	E	A	L	■	■	S	U	I	T	■	■	■
B	R	I	I	■	B	A	L	F	O	U	H	■
L	I	N	■	A	P	I	S	E	■	C	A	N
■	Q	U	I	N	I	N	E	■	E	L	M	O
■	■	■	T	A	C	T	■	L	E	A	P	T
W	E	T	A	L	K	■	S	E	R	■	■	■
I	V	E	S	■	B	Y	W	E	I	G	H	T
D	I	S	C	■	A	M	A	P	E	T	T	O
E	L	S	A	■	T	A	P	■	R	O	S	Y

Yesterday's answer 7-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Liv Tyler, 37; Missy Elliott, 43; Pamela Anderson, 47; Dan Aykroyd, 62.

Happy Birthday: Greater involvement with people from different backgrounds or those who can open your eyes to new ways of doing things will be your guiding light this year. Don't let the changes going on around you cause worry. You may not like life-altering situations, but if you trust in who you are, you will come out on top. Your numbers are 4, 11, 22, 29, 33, 40, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get out and make new contacts. Socializing for work or pleasure will help you gain confidence and lead to someone who shares your concerns, interests and future aspirations. Love is on the rise. Don't overreact, overindulge or overspend. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may have plenty of good ideas, but if you don't get the OK from someone in charge first, you may be wasting your time. Go over every detail, leaving no room for error, before you present what you have to offer. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Fix up your surroundings to suit your needs. Put love at the top of your list whether you are in love or looking for that special someone. Don't rush a job you've been asked to do or you may overlook something important. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Get involved in a cause and discuss your thoughts, feelings and ideas. Sharing with others may be met with some opposition, but in the end, it will help you come up with a plan that will help you reach your goal. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Be careful when it comes to investments or donations. You may feel like making changes, but stick to a set budget or you may end up having serious regrets. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep an open mind. Listen to what's being said and observe how others react. Someone is likely to misinform you or use emotional tactics to get you to do something that isn't in your best interest. Protect your assets. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't sit when you should be sprinting. Get involved in things that will lead to exciting encounters with people who have something to offer. Change is on the horizon, but make sure your motives are pure before taking a leap of faith. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Expand your interests and satisfy your thirst for knowledge. Interacting with people from all walks of life will give you insight into future trends. Be careful where you leave your money and your belongings. Loss is apparent. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Your charm will attract attention, but if you mislead someone you will end up in a situation that you'll regret. Flirting is fun, but emotional deception will hurt your reputation. Stick to the facts and avoid discord. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Avoid discussions that will lead to disagreements. A situation will easily get blown out of proportion. Stick to important issues that can provide you with information that will help you make good financial decisions. Contracts can be drawn up and signed. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Personal problems will escalate if you don't stick to the truth. Evading an issue that affects a relationship you have with someone at work or at home will lead to bigger problems. Honesty is the best policy. Speak up and put it behind you. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Share your ideas with your colleagues and consider forming a partnership with someone you enjoy collaborating with and you will come up with a good plan of attack. Share your past accomplishments and let your enthusiasm lead the way. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have plenty of pizzazz. You are supportive, curious and creative.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9				8	4			2
	6					9		
		5			7		6	
				1		6		5
5								4
3		9		2				
	2		3			1		
		7					5	
4			1	6				8

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	2	1	8	5	4	7	6	3
6	7	5	9	3	1	2	4	8
3	4	8	2	7	6	9	5	1
2	1	7	3	4	5	8	9	6
4	8	3	1	6	9	5	2	7
5	9	6	7	8	2	1	3	4
7	5	4	6	9	8	3	1	2
1	3	9	4	2	7	6	8	5
8	6	2	5	1	3	4	7	9

Difficulty Level ★ 6/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DESIGNER ZAC POSEN **Solution: 6 letters**

S	D	E	K	O	P	S	Z	E	G	D	U	J	N	R
E	A	L	G	(N)	O	L	E	R	A	P	P	A	I	Y
S	Y	A	S	(W)	J	E	A	N	S	E	L	C	Q	T
S	T	M	E	(O)	R	D	N	E	P	E	H	K	U	U
E	I	R	N	(G)	F	O	A	L	X	A	A	E	E	A
R	M	O	I	A	I	M	U	A	R	N	N	T	T	E
D	E	F	L	H	L	M	N	D	L	A	D	I	R	B
I	P	L	S	E	S	D	M	A	E	S	B	U	U	R
S	E	A	S	N	R	A	B	S	O	U	A	Y	L	E
P	F	S	N	A	R	E	S	L	O	S	G	D	Y	T
L	S	F	U	T	L	W	D	W	O	H	S	U	O	A
A	K	I	I	O	G	E	N	A	R	T	O	J	K	E
Y	I	N	C	O	L	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	K	W
A	R	E	Z	A	L	B	R	L	E	H	C	T	A	S
S	T	E	P	H	E	N	T	Y	N	T	N	E	V	E

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Alexandra, Apparel, Beauty, Blazer, Blouse, Bridal, Collection, Daytime, Display, Dresses, Event, Fall, Fashion, Fine, Formal, Gen Art, Gown, Handbags, Jacket, Jeans, John, Judge, Judy, Label, Lines, Long, Models, Niquet, Pant, Peplum, Richard Martin, Satchel, Seamless, Sean, Shirts, Show, Skirt, SoHo, Sold, Stephen, Susan, Sweater, Trends, Truly, Vakko, Z Spoke

Yesterday's Answer: John Muir

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38,** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

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2 - Tour Guide: High school diploma and 3 years' experience required. Korean speaking and writing fluency required.

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1 - Front Office Clerk/Customer Service Rep.: Speaking and writing fluency in Korean language required.

1 - Admin. Assistant/Waiter/Waitress: Bachelor's degree and at least 1 year's experience required.

1 - Housekeeping Cleaner: At least 3 years' experience as housekeeping cleaner in hotel environment required.

1 - Cook: At least 3 years' professional cooking experience required. Email resume to o2scuba@hanmisaipan.com.

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JUAN T. LIZAMA
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Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF:) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 14-0134-CV
DONALD GLEN P. FLORES)
a.k.a. DONALD G.FLORES,)
) **NOTICE OF**
Deceased.) **HEARING**
)
)
_____)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT on July 8, 2014 at 1:30 PM in the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, MP, the petitioner. Cecilia Josephine Untalan Flores, will petition the court for letters of administration and for appointment as administratix.

Dated this 27th day of June, 2014.

/s/ JUAN T. LIZAMA
Attorney for Petitioner

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2 – PROJECT ENGINEER TECH

Applicant must possess college diploma with (8) years minimum experience in this field. Must be responsible for managing, supervising, coordinating, performing and executing engineering and construction duties in planning, designing and maintenance of building structures and facilities including but not limited to buildings, power, plants, detention facilities, roads, drainage, airport buildings and infrastructure. Must also responsible in keeping the project on budget.

1 – ACCOUNTANT

Applicant must possess college diploma with at least (8) years minimum experience. Responsibilities include preparation, examination or analysis of accounting records, financial statements, or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards. Develop and implement document recordkeeping and accounting systems. Prepare payrolls, compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting or other tax requirements.

1 – WELDER

Must have skills in welding metal components together in flat, vertical or overhead position to form, repair and fabricate metal products, cracked or broken component using arc and gas welding. Must have ability to read lay outs and blue prints, and follow work orders. Operate safety equipment and use safe work habits. At least (4) years minimum related experience in a construction and heavy equipments.

1 – HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC

Applicant must perform a full range of maintenance, repair and service activities on heavy equipment including but not limited to heavy duty trucks, excavators, graders, cranes, backhoes/loaders, tractors, bulldozers. Must have knowledge in overhauling and troubleshooting of heavy equipment and must have the ability to request and order parts. At least (4) years minimum experience.

1 – AUTO ELECTRICIAN

High school diploma with minimum (4) years work related experience. Must be able to diagnose and identify electrical problems using test instrument. Ability to analyze, troubleshoot and install electronic or programmable controllers, motor starters. Rewind electric motors transformers and generators. Knowledge on preventive maintenance system

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Interested qualified applicants submit complete application or resume and latest police clearance via e-mail at saipan@aicconstruction.com or mail to AIC Marianas, Inc.
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- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
- Maintain all of company's computer systems to include computer hardware, computer software, and computer network and advance server skills.
- Oversees medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software.
- Oversees administrative areas and designs, develops and maintains a paperless computer system.
- Building maintenance repair, electronic record and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with medical and Medicaid standards.
- Performs such other duties as may be assigned.

(02) Clinic/Yard Maintenance
- Preferred skills and experience
- Building construction/renovation experience
- Must be experience in solar maintenance PV models
- Must be flexible with time schedule
- Must have a valid driver's license

(01) Ultrasound/X-Ray Technician
- Must be over five years experience in electronic health and practice partner records.
- Experience/knowledge with practice partner software in electronic health records usage.
- Must be a bachelor of science in Radiologic Technology.
- Licensed by the Medical Profession Licensing Board, CNMI
- At least five years or more experience or related field

(02) Registered Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN licensing
- At least two to five years experience
- Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in nursing
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at Saipan Health Clinic located at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on 07/25/2014 at 4:00p.m. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

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Ortiz hits No. 450, Red Sox beat Yankees, 8-5

NEW YORK (AP)— David Ortiz hit his 450th homer, a colossal three-run drive, and Dustin Pedroia had three RBIs during his second consecutive three-hit game to lead Boston.

John Lackey (9-5) labored through five innings before four Red Sox relievers pitched shutout ball the rest of the way. Boston took two of three in the series to finish a 4-6 road trip and improve to 6-13 away from home this month.

Mark Teixeira and Carlos Beltran homered for the Yankees, who have dropped six of eight. Rookie right-hander Chase Whitley (3-2) struggled for the second straight start, allowing five runs and eight hits in four-plus innings, as six New York pitchers combined for eight walks.

Koji Uehara worked a perfect ninth for his 18th save in 19 attempts.

AP

New York Yankees catcher Brian McCann, left, watches Boston Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz follow through on a third-inning, three-run, home run off New York Yankees starting pitcher Chase Whitley in a baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Sunday, June 29, 2014.

Dodgers 6, Cardinals 0

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw completed a spectacular June by striking out 13 batters and allowing just five hits over seven innings, and Andre Ethier hit a three-run homer as the Los Angeles Dodgers downed the St. Louis Cardinals.

Kershaw (9-2) extended his career-best scoreless streak to 28 innings in his first home start since throwing his first career no-hitter June 18 against Colorado. The left-hander went 6-0 with an 0.82 ERA in June, yielding four runs in 44 innings and striking out 61.

Matt Kemp and Adrian Gonzalez had run-scoring hits for the Dodgers, who took three of four from St. Louis in a rematch of last season's NL championship series.

With 12 wins in 16 games, Los Angeles (47-37) has pulled virtually even with the slumping Giants (46-36) atop the NL West.

Reds 4, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Homer Bailey made a strong bid for another no-hitter for Cincinnati, shutting down San Francisco until Buster Posey's two-out single in the seventh inning.

Bailey has thrown no-hitters in each of the last two seasons, and did it against the Giants at home last July 2. He came close to pitching the latest gem at AT&T Park—the ballpark was the scene of Tim Lincecum's no-hitter Wednesday against San Diego.

Bailey (8-4) finished with a three-hitter as the Reds completed their first four-game sweep in San Francisco since doing it at Candlestick Park in 1972.

Billy Hamilton, Brandon Phillips, Brayan Pena and Skip Schumaker drove in runs as the Reds won their season-best fifth straight and eighth in nine overall.

The Giants were swept in a four-game series for the first time in their ballpark that opened in 2000.

Astros 6, Tigers 4

In Houston, Scott Feldman threw six strong innings, and Jose Altuve had three hits and two steals as Houston held on to beat Detroit.

Feldman (4-5) allowed two runs on seven hits and a walk, while striking out four in his first win since May 26. The Astros have won three of their last four games.

Altuve leads the major leagues with 116 hits and has a career high 36 stolen bases. He set a franchise record with a stolen base in six straight games with his swipe of second base in the first inning.

Altuve also became the third player since 1904 with four straight games with multiple steals, joining Ray Chapman in 1917 and Bill Dahlen in 1904, according information from the Elias Sports Bureau provided by the Astros.

Tony Sipp got the last four outs for his first save.

The Astros jumped on Drew Smyly (4-7) early, plating three in the first.

Braves 3, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, B.J. Upton tripled and drove in two runs to lead streaking Atlanta to its first four-game sweep in Philadelphia in 50 years.

Gerald Laird had two hits with a double and RBI for the Braves, who won for the sixth time in seven games and ended their road trip 8-3. It was the Braves' first four-game sweep in Philadelphia since Sept. 24-27, 1964.

It was the Braves' first four-game sweep in Philadelphia since Sept. 24-27, 1964, when the franchise was in Milwaukee and their four wins at Connie Mack Stadium contributed to the Phillies' infamous season-ending collapse that year.

Marlon Byrd hit a pair of solo home runs for the slumping Phillies, who have lost eight of 10 to drop to 10 games under .500.

Aaron Harang (7-6) gave up two runs on 11 hits and two walks over seven innings.

Craig Kimbrel pitched a scoreless ninth, working out of a jam for his 24th save in 28 opportunities.

David Buchanan (4-4) allowed three runs over five innings to snap his three-game winning streak.

Athletics 4, Marlins 3

In Miami, Nate Freiman hit a three-run homer in his 2014 debut as Oakland completed a three-game series sweep of Miami.

The Athletics trailed 1-0 in the sixth inning before breaking out against rookie Andrew Heaney with four consecutive hits, including Freiman's home run. Freiman, who spent all of last season with the A's, was recalled from Triple-A Sacramento before the game when right fielder Josh Reddick returned to the disabled list because of a right knee strain.

Tommy Milone (6-3) allowed two earned runs in seven innings to win his sixth consecutive decision, a career best. Closer Sean Doolittle was given the day off, and Ryan Cook pitched the final 1 1-3 innings for his first save.

Royals 5, Angels 4

In Kansas City, Missouri, Omar Infante delivered another big hit against the Angels, singling home the winning run for Kansas City with one out in the ninth inning.

Lorenzo Cain hit three doubles for the Royals, finishing with four hits and two RBIs.

An error by second baseman Howie Kendrick set up the game-ending hit by Infante, whose grand slam Friday night helped beat the Angels.

Infante's single came against Los Angeles newcomer Jason Grilli (0-3). Pittsburgh traded its former closer to the Angels on Friday.

Greg Holland (1-2) struck out two in the ninth.

Mariners 3, Indians 0

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez allowed one hit over eight innings while striking out nine for Seattle, and Robinson Cano backed him with a two-run homer.

Hernandez allowed just Lonnie Chisenhall's single in the fifth inning and walked three in picking up his 10th victory of the season.

Fernando Rodney earned his 23rd save with a perfect ninth inning.

Cano snapped an 0-for-14 skid in the sixth inning, hitting a two-run shot to right off T.J. House to give the Mariners a 2-0 lead.

House (0-2) went six innings, giving up two runs on seven hits and a walk. He struck out five.

Padres 2, Diamondbacks 1

In San Diego, rookie Odrisamer Despaigne won his second straight star and Cameron Maybin keyed a rare offensive outburst as San Diego popped out of its one-day stay in last place in the NL West.

The Padres scored their most runs in four games. Through 81 games, they had scored one or fewer runs 27 times. They swapped places with the Diamondbacks, who had leapfrogged the Padres into fourth place after winning 3-1 Saturday night.

Despaigne (2-0), a 27-year-old who defected from Cuba last summer, held Arizona to one run and five hits in 6 2-3 innings, walking four and striking out two. Huston Street pitched the ninth for his 21st save in as many chances.

The Padres scored twice in the fourth on two hits, two walks and a sacrifice fly off Mike Bolsinger (1-4).

Pirates 5, Mets 2

In Pittsburgh, Pedro Alvarez homered and drove in three runs and Edinson Volquez pitched six shutout innings to propel Pittsburgh.

Ike Davis had a two-run single against his former team in a three-run first off Bartolo Colon. Alvarez added an RBI double off Colon (8-6) in the inning.

Volquez (6-6) worked in and out of trouble, giving up eight hits and a walk. He struck out a season-high seven as the Pirates took three of four from the Mets.

New York had plenty of chances to score off Volquez, stranding 11 on base, including seven in scoring position. The Mets had men on base in every inning except the eighth.

The Mets scored twice in the ninth against Jared Hughes on Chris Young's groundout to shortstop and Ruben Tejada's RBI single.

White Sox 4, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, Moises Sierra hit a solo home run and Jose Quintana won back-to-back starts for the first time this season as Chicago won its third straight.

Jose Abreu extended his hitting streak to 14 games with an RBI single as the White Sox posted their first shutout of the season and won three straight for the first time in more than a month. Chicago swept a home series against Cleveland from May 26-28. They'd gone 8-17 since before Friday's 5-4 victory began the current streak.

Quintana (5-7) allowed three hits in seven innings, improving to 4-1 with a 1.80 ERA in six starts against the Blue Jays. Quintana walked two and struck out seven.

Eric Surkamp worked the eighth and Jake Petricka finished.

Facing his former team for the second time, Blue Jays left-hander Mark Buehrle (10-5) lost for the fourth time in five starts, allowing two runs and six hits in eight innings.

Rockies 10, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Colorado scored three runs in a wild fifth-inning that featured two Milwaukee errors, avoiding a season sweep to the Brewers.

Wilin Rosario took advantage of the gaffes with runners on first and second. His shot to third was booted by normally sure-handed third baseman Aramis Ramirez.

One run had already scored when the ball squirted into foul territory before shortstop Jeff Bianchi threw home high and offline trying to get Corey Dickerson. Catcher Jonathan Lucroy then threw errantly attempting to get Rosario at third and Rosario hustled home safely for a six-run lead.

Jorge De La Rosa (8-6) got the win despite allowing three wild pitches and hitting one batter. Milwaukee's Yovani Gallardo (5-5) was tagged for 10 hits in five innings.

Twins 3, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Kendrys Morales had a tiebreaking double off closer Joakim Soria in the ninth inning as Minnesota ended its 10-game road losing streak.

Morales' line drive landed just inside the foul line in left field, and a leaping security guard avoided touching the ball, allowing pinch-runner Sam Fuld to score from first base.

A ground-rule double would have forced Fuld to stop at third, and Soria (1-3) struck out the final two hitters of the inning.

Kyle Gibson (7-6) matched a career high by going eight innings and scattering eight hits. Perkins struck out the side in the ninth for his 20th save in 23 chances.

Rays 12, Orioles 7

In Baltimore, Matt Joyce homered twice, had a career-high five hits and drove in four runs to power Tampa Bay.

Tampa Bay totaled 11 extra base hits — five homers and six doubles. The Rays trailed 4-3 before Kevin Kiermaier and Logan Forsythe went deep during a seven-run sixth inning that sent many in the crowd of 32,665 scattering toward the exits.

Joyce doubled in the first inning, hit a solo shot in the third, singled in both the fifth and sixth innings and added a two-run drive in the seventh. His five hits and 12 total bases tied club records.

Although the Orioles finally got Joyce out in the ninth with the outcome already decided, his 5-for-6 performance upped his batting average 15 points to .274.

Rose overcomes late mistake at Congressional

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—Justin Rose has won enough times on the strongest golf courses to appreciate how one mistake can make a difference.

He got away with one Sunday at Congressional to win the Quicken Loans National.

Shawn Stefani did not.

With the poise and the putting touch of a U.S. Open champion, Rose atoned for a 4-iron he hit into the water on the 18th hole to make a 15-foot bogey putt that got him into a playoff and gave him new life. On the 18th hole in the playoff, Stefani hit the same type of shot that rolled into the same pond left of the green.

There are no second chances in a sudden-death playoff.

Rose won with a par on the first extra hole for his first victory since the U.S. Open last summer at Merion. This one required about as much work, with Congressional far more difficult and unrelenting than when it hosted a soggy U.S. Open three years ago.

"Congressional got its reputation back after the U.S. Open," Rose said. "I really enjoy this type of golf and this type of test. I think it tested all of us. I'm delighted."

The Englishman was far from delighted after thinking he had thrown this one away.

Tied for the lead as he played the 18th, Rose tried to squeeze a 4-iron through a tiny gap in the trees from 209 yards away, playing toward the right side of the green for a chance at par. Instead, he turned it over and realized when he jogged toward the fairway that it was headed for the water.

His caddie, Mark Fulcher, told Rose that Stefani had just made bogey behind them on the 17th.

"Everything else was forgotten at that point," Rose said. "I wiped the slate clean and just focused on my putt on 18. An amazing feeling in any sort of championship when you make a putt like that. That means something. That's special.

"And then the playoff, it was just up to me to not do what I did the first time around."

He left that to Stefani, who had drilled his tee shot in regulation and narrowly missed a 20-foot birdie putt for his first PGA Tour victory. In the playoff, Stefani pulled his tee shot in the trees and got relief from grandstands blocking his view of the green. He chose a 6-iron to punch it around the trees.

"The grass closed the club down," Stefani said, "and it went left into the water. I was trying to play it down the right side and have a chance at a putt, two putts for a par. That's the way it goes. It was great to have a chance to win."

Both closed with a 1-under 70 and finished at 4-under 280 on a course that looked like a U.S. Open, and played like one the way so many contenders—seven players had at least a share of the lead at one point—tumbled down the leaderboard.

Only six players broke par in the final round. And it was only the second time this year that the winning score was higher than the 36-hole lead (6 under). That also happened at Torrey Pines, which like Congressional, previously hosted a U.S. Open.

No one crashed harder than Patrick Reed, who had a two-shot lead to start the final round, still had a two-shot lead at the turn and didn't even finish in the top 10. He made back-to-back double bogeys, shot 41 on the back and closed with a 77 to tie for 11th.

"This definitely burns and definitely gets me more fired up for more events coming up," Reed said.

Even though he got a reprieve with the clutch bogey putt, Rose looked like a U.S. Open champion the way he put himself into position. He hit 5-iron to 5 feet for one of only four birdies on the 11th hole Sunday. Staring at potential bogey from deep rough on the 14th, he boldly hit 3-wood up the hill and between the deep bunkers to the middle of the green. It was a par, but Rose called the 3-wood his "shot of the day."

And before his blunder on the 18th, he holed an 8-foot sliding par putt on the 17th.

"I felt like all aspects of my game were tested this week, and it's really nice to win in that fashion," Rose said.

Stefani, whose only major experience was at Merion last year, plodded along like a U.S. Open veteran with one par after another. He joined Rose in the lead with a 15-foot birdie putt on the 16th.

So many others fell back.

Brendon Todd was tied for the lead until a double bogey in the water on the 10th. Marc Leishman three-putted for bogey on No. 7 and made bogey on the easiest par 4 at Congressional. Brendan Steele made a late rally, only to take on too much from the rough on the 18th and find the water for double bogey.

This was the first British Open qualifier on the PGA Tour - the leading four players not already exempt from the top 12 at Congressional get into Royal Liverpool next month.

Stefani earned one spot as the runner-up. Charley Hoffman (69) and Ben Martin (71) each birdied two of the last three holes to tie for third. Steele got the last spot with a 71 that put him in a three-way tie for third with Andres Romero and Todd, who already is exempt. Steele earned the spot over Romero because he has a higher world ranking. Romero closed with a 68, the low score in a final round when the scoring average was 73.7.

AP

Justin Rose, of England, poses with the trophy after he won the Quicken Loans National golf tournament, Sunday, June 29, 2014, in Bethesda, Md.

Free agents weigh building bank account or a team

NEW YORK (AP)—Phil Jackson sought to clear something up: Suggesting Carmelo Anthony take less than a maximum salary wasn't his idea.

It was Anthony, Jackson noted, who first brought up leaving money on the table to help build a winning team.

Now it's about time to see if the All-Star forward will—and if it would be in New York.

Free agency opens Tuesday, and it's no longer just a means for players to make their situations better. That might be Anthony's goal, but for players such as LeBron James and Dirk Nowitzki, improving their teams might be the biggest benefit.

The maximum contract was long one of the true validations of players. But even the very best realize now that if a teammate also makes the max, a team risks having half the salary cap tied up in two players.

"I think it puts limitations on a team," said Jackson, the Knicks president. "What happens is then you end up having two or three players that have big contracts and everybody else is either your veteran minimums or young players that are coming in, or you just don't have that middle ground of a player that's a veteran, comfortable, leadership-quality people. I think that Miami explored it and I think they got the most out of it. I'm wondering what direction it's going to go now."

James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh accepted a little less than max salaries in 2010, allowing Miami to sign all three and afford help around them. Doing so again now could allow the Heat to replenish their roster, which would have been nearly impossible if they had decided to keep playing under their existing contracts.

Nowitzki seems committed to staying in Dallas and giving the Mavericks a discount to afford complementary pieces. The best example of seeking depth over dollars may be Tim Duncan on the NBA champion San Antonio Spurs. He could be paid less than half what Anthony will make next season.

"This whole thing of him opting in for $10 million and we're talking about other players having to settle for mid-20s, it's sort of laughable that Duncan is not getting what he should be getting, for all that he means to that franchise," said ESPN analyst and former NBA general manager Tom Penn. "But he's given back. The others have followed his lead."

Some players only get one chance to cash the big check, so it may be hard for Toronto's Kyle Lowry, Indiana's Lance Stephenson or Brooklyn's Shaun Livingston to think of team over self coming off their best NBA seasons.

Anthony may be fine leaving money behind. But offered something too low, and perhaps he'd leave the Knicks instead.

He isn't the best player available but might be the best one attainable. While James is expected to remain in Miami, Anthony might be persuaded—perhaps even eager—to move if he doesn't think Jackson can build a winner in New York.

"It's a big question because there's so many things that can happen out there that we really don't know. With LeBron getting in this free agency and all this stuff, it's kind of tipsy turvy right now. We don't know what all that means," Jackson said before the NBA draft.

"But we have every confidence that Carmelo's good for what his word is, that he wants to be in New York, he likes playing in New York, he wants to compete and he wants to be part of a playoff team that's bound and competitive toward a championship."

Anthony can make more than $125 million over five years with the Knicks, depending on next season's salary cap figures. He could only get a four-year deal with another team, according to NBA rules, and could make around $30 million less.

And though Jackson has said he "challenged" Anthony to take less so the team could be rebuilt faster, he hasn't ruled out offering the max.

"I think there's going to be things that are going to be happening in the near future in the NBA that's going to grow this league and I think monetarily it's not going to end up being an issue for us to do that," he said.

So perhaps Anthony could get the max. But given that the two NBA finalists were built around guys not taking it, maybe he, like the Knicks, should want otherwise.

"I challenged him on that," Jackson said, "because I wanted our fans to see, you know, that he's a team player, that he was going to do what was best for this team to get ahead farther and faster."

Big 4 around Wimbledon's Week 2, not so for women

LONDON (AP)—The so-called "Big 4" who have won 35 of 37 of the past Grand Slam singles titles—Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray and Roger Federer—are all around for the second week at Wimbledon, joined by the new major winner on the block, Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka.

The same can't be said on the women's side, where top-seeded and five-time champion Serena Williams won't see any action at the All England Club in Week 2 except in doubles with her sister Venus, another five-time Wimbledon winner who is also out of singles.

With Serena out and second-seeded Li Na also a third-round loser, it marks the first time in the Open era that the top two women's seeds haven't advanced to Wimbledon's fourth round.

Williams, who has 17 Grand Slam singles titles, hadn't been knocked out of Wimbledon so soon since 2005, but has departed before the quarterfinals at four of the past five majors.

WTA founder Billie Jean King, winner of eight Grand Slam singles titles in the Open era, says she recalls going through a similar streak in her career.

"Most definitely," King said Sunday near Wimbledon when announcing Singapore as the new site of the WTA season-ending championships in October.

"Everybody does. But I think there might be some underlying things happening to her, some things off the court, that are affecting her. I'm sure she will work them out."

On a sunny but blustery middle Sunday—traditionally an off-day at Wimbledon—most of the players remaining in the singles draw held sessions at the nearby Aorangi Park practice courts.

Federer and Murray were there at the same time, although due to rain delays on Friday, Federer, like Nadal, won't play his fourth-round match until Tuesday.

Federer says he's amazed as anyone about the Big 4's ability to maintain such a stellar record in Grand Slam tournaments.

"I came through the ranks where it was normal for top guys to have a bad Slam, have maybe two bad Slams from time to time, but it barely happens anymore," Federer said. "It's like such a shock when it does.

"I think I've been surprised how consistent I've been personally, but even more so by everybody else who is just like normal to get to quarters, get to semis. Because I know how small the margins are."

Djokovic's chances of advancing might rest with his sore arm. He had an afternoon training session Sunday to test his left arm and shoulder he injured in a nasty fall on Friday in his Centre Court win over France's Gilles Simon.

Djokovic lunged for a shot behind the baseline, tumbled on the grass and rolled over twice, his racket flying from his hand. He thought he had dislocated his shoulder, but from what Djokovic says, it looked a lot worse than it was.

"Luckily there is nothing damaged," he said. "I just came from the doctor's office, ultrasound. I'm quite confident that it will not affect my physical state or regimen or daily routine. I think it's going to be fine."

Djokovic will play the third match on Centre Court on Monday against 14th-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Alize Cornet, who scored the biggest upset of the tournament when she beat Serena Williams on Saturday, opens Monday's play on Centre against Canadian Eugenie Bouchard, who is the only woman to advance to the semifinals of both Grand Slam tournaments this year.

Defending champion Murray plays Kevin Anderson in the match following.

In third-round matches carried over due to Saturday's rain suspensions, Wawrinka is up against Denis Istomin to start play on Court 2 while Feliciano Lopez plays American John Isner on Court 3.

The only other third-round men's match to be completed is nearly there - Kei Nishikori of Japan and Italy's Simone Bolelli are 3-3 in the fifth set, with the winner to play Canadian Milos Raonic on Tuesday.

British tabloids will no doubt have fun with the back-to-back "love" matches on Court 1 on Monday.

Grigor Dimitrov plays Leonardo Mayer, followed by Dimitrov's girlfriend Maria Sharapova, the 2004 Wimbledon champion, up against Angelique Kerber.

Not to miss an opportunity, a gambling agency, calling Dimitrov and Sharapova "the most glamorous couple in tennis (since Connors and Evert in 1974)" are offering odds of 50 to 1 that the pair will win their respective singles titles this year.

And, oh, 250 to 1 that they'll announce their engagement before the end of the Wimbledon Champions Ball.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	45	39	.536	–
Baltimore	42	39	.519	1½
New York	41	39	.513	2
Boston	38	44	.463	6
Tampa Bay	35	49	.417	10
Central Division				
Detroit	44	34	.564	–
Kansas City	42	39	.519	3½
Cleveland	39	42	.481	6½
Chicago	39	44	.470	7½
Minnesota	37	43	.463	8
West Division				
Oakland	51	30	.630	–
Los Angeles	45	35	.563	5½
Seattle	44	38	.537	7½
Texas	37	44	.457	14
Houston	36	47	.434	16

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	44	38	.537	–
Washington	43	38	.531	½
Miami	39	43	.476	5
New York	37	45	.451	7
Philadelphia	36	46	.439	8
Central Division				
Milwaukee	51	33	.607	–
Cincinnati	43	38	.531	6½
St. Louis	44	39	.530	6½
Pittsburgh	42	40	.512	8
Chicago	34	46	.425	15
West Division				
San Francisco	46	36	.561	–
Los Angeles	47	37	.560	–
Colorado	36	46	.439	10
San Diego	35	47	.427	11
Arizona	35	49	.417	12

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAND

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TBK had a chance to either tie the match with a two-point basket or grab the lead with a triple when Tabora was called for a backing violation on the other end. However, Velasco lost possession on his way to the basket, while Bisana hit a short jumper, followed by Jerome Norita's layup off Lizama's assist and steal in the inbound play.

With its back-to-back baskets, Island Manpower entered the final two minutes of the match with a 77-77-71 advantage and TBK gambled on giving up fouls. The ploy worked as Tabora, Lizama, and Bisana missed two free throws apiece, while Ivan Devero had a split and his younger brother Christian scored four straight points to help TBK stay in the match, 76-79. Before faltering on the foul line, Tabora banked a jumper that gave Island Manpower a 3-point lead, which Ivan Devero cut down to one with his own jumper.

TBK went on to give two more fouls after Devero's basket, but this time Tabora and Bisana drilled one free throw each to finally put the game away.

Meanwhile, San Antonio won the battle for third place against the depleted Shocker Nation, 103-55.

Shocker Nation had only six players and paid the price for its short-handed roster, as San Antonio controlled the match in the second period, turning a 17-15 lead to a 43-29 halftime edge. Seven San Antonio players finished in twin digits with Bryle Alegre leading the way with his 18 points.

First Game

San Antonio 103 – Alegre 18, Espinosa 16, Fidelino 15, Mendoza 14, Arciaga 13, Feria 12, Javier 7, Factor 4.

Shocker Nation 55 – Saturno 16, Cadiang 15, Vertudez 11, J. Villanueva 9, Je. Villanueva 4.

Scoring by quarters: 17-15, 43-29, 71-43, 103-55.

Second Game

Island Manpower 81 – Bisana 20, Tabora 15, Teregeyo 10, Norita 10, Pangelinan 7, Kaipat 4, Capalad 4, Lizama 4, Tobias 3.

TBK Mechanics 78 – I. Devero 28, C. Devero 17, Quitugua 7, Velasco 6, Mateo 5, Santos 4, Catalla 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-16, 38-33, 62-51, 81-78.

CNMI

From Page 28

The CNMI Senior All-Stars will go for their third win today when they face long-time rival Guam, while the Commonwealth's last two matches will be against India (Wednesday) and New Zealand (Thursday). The Top 2 teams after the round-robin elimination will duel for the championship and the ticket to the World Series.

The CNMI took a 4-0 lead in the first five innings of its game against the Philippines and survived the host;s rally in the last two innings. No other details of the match were made available on the tournament website.

Meanwhile, the Commonwealth also won its first game in the Junior League, outclassing Vietnam last Sunday, 8-5.

The CNMI Junior All-Stars were aiming for a 2-0 record in Pool A yesterday, as they were set to collide against Guam. Tomorrow, the Bernard Cabrera-managed team will be pitted against the Philippines, while it will close out its pool assignment with a match versus Chinese-Taipei on Thursday. The Top 2 teams in each pool will square off in the semis with the last two teams left standing battling for the championship. Pool B has Qatar, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and India.

In the Little League and Big League divisions, the CNMI dropped its opener. Manager Manny Evangelista and his Little League players lost to Saudi Arabia, 4-9, while Big League manager Joseph Flores and his wards fell to Chinese-Taipei, 0-9.

The CNMI Big League All-Stars were hoping to bounce back yesterday against the Philippines before they face Guam at the end of the first round today. The Big League division has a two-round robin format in the elimination with the Top 2 teams advancing to the finals.

The Little League has a round-robin format and teams are divided into two pools with the CNMI grouped with Vietnam, Dubai, Hong Kong, and Chinese-Taipei in Pool A. Pool B has the Philippines, New Zealand, South Korea, Guam, and Indonesia. The Top 2 teams in each pool will march into the semifinals with the winners in the Final Four pairing barging into the finals.

The CNMI was scheduled to play Vietnam in the Little League division yesterday, while the former's last three matches will be against Dubai (Tuesday), Hong Kong (Wednesday), and Chinese-Taipei (Thursday).

In the 50-70 division, the CNMI, represented by players from Tinian, was set to debut versus Hong Kong yesterday, but results of their match were unavailable at press time. The Commonwealth is in Pool B, which also has Japan and Thailand. Pool A is composed of Korea, Indonesia, Philippines, Dubai, and India.

DUTCH

From Page 28

in stoppage time to seal a 2-1 comeback win over Mexico and advance to a match against a Costa Rica lineup that beat Greece on penalties later Sunday to reach the World Cup quarterfinals for the first time. The Costa Ricans had to play for almost an hour with 10 men, and just had the legs to win 5-3 on penalties after the match finished level at 1-1 after extra time.

That was the second penalty shootout of the weekend, following Brazil's narrow win over Chile on Saturday.

In oppressive heat at Fortaleza, a Dutch attack that scored five goals against 2010 champion Spain in its opening game was on the verge of a second-round exit until finding a way past Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa in the 88th minute.

Once they did, the turnaround happened quickly. Wesley Sneijder's bullet-like strike canceled out Giovani Dos Santos' 48th-minute opener for Mexico. Klaas Jan Huntelaar sealed the win with a calmly-taken penalty late in stoppage time after Mexico captain Rafael Marquez took down Robben in the area.

The veteran Dutch forward had been dangerous in attack but all his efforts had been fruitless, as had his frequent tumbles and appeals for penalties and free kicks.

"Unbelievable," Robben said. "Five minutes from full time, we were out."

It was unbelievable for Mexico coach Miguel Herrera, too. The effusive coach was mystified that the penalty was awarded by referee Pedro Proenca, disputing the contact that resulted in Robben sprawling on the pitch.

"Today it was the man with the whistle who eliminated us from the World Cup," Herrera said. "We ended up losing because he whistled a penalty that did not exist.

"I repeat this because (Robben) dived three times. The referee should have cautioned him. If that had happened, Robben would have been cautioned or even sent off."

In recent seasons Robben has been trying to shake off his reputation for diving. Against Mexico, he only compounded it.

"I have to say, in the first half—and right away offer my excuses—I dived," he told Dutch broadcaster NOS. "I mustn't do that. It was another stupid action." He wasn't sorry about the injury-time incident that incensed Mexico and condemned it to its sixth consecutive second-round loss at World Cups.

With temperatures hitting 32 Celsius (90 Fahrenheit) and in 68 percent humidity, FIFA instituted cooling breaks 30 minutes into each half in Fortaleza so players could rehydrate.

Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal used the second-half break to make a tactical change, switching from a 5-3-2 system to a more traditional Dutch 4-4-3, bringing Huntelaar in to replace the tiring Robin van Persie.

"Yes, we escaped," Van Gaal said. "But we showed that we could create more chances with 4-3-3, and the players handled this shift very well."

The Costa Ricans, rank outsiders at the start of the tournament, were fluid in attack as they topped a group containing former champions Italy, Uruguay and England to advance to the knockout stage, but then had to struggle against Greece at Recife.

Costa Rica took an early second-half lead through captain Bryan Ruiz but, after being reduced to 10 men when Oscar Duarte was sent off for his second booking in the 66th minute, conceded an injury-time equalizer to Sokratis Papastathopoulos that sent the match into extra time at 1-1.

The Costa Ricans appeared on the verge of exhaustion as Greece relentlessly pressed forward.

Greece, which sealed its place in the knockout stages for the first time with a late penalty winner against Ivory Coast, couldn't find the winner in extra time despite a numerical advantage.

Given a few moments to recover their breath, the Costa Ricans were perfect in the shoot out, with Michael Umana scoring the decisive penalty.

"To the entire people in Costa Rica, those at home and out on the streets, this is for you," Costa Rica coach Jorge Luis Pinto said. "This is a people that love football and they deserve it. ... We will continue fighting. We will go on. We see beautiful things."

Tan Holdings FC vs Wings FC

PHOTOS By GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Tan Holdings FC players and officials pose for a group photo after completing their stint in the 2014 Marianas U18 Invitational Tournament in Guam late last month.

A tournament official congratulates Tan Holdings FC goalie Joshua Galarion for winning the Golden Glove award.

Tan Holdings FC goalie Joshua Galarion tries to block a shot from a Wings FC player.

A phalanx of Tan Holdings FC defenders steps into the play.

A Wings FC defender hangs on to the jersey of Tan Holdings FC's Sean Perez.

Tan Holdings FC goalie Joshua Galarion goes for a save.

A Wings FC player runs into Tan Holdings FC's Sean Perez.

A Tan Holdings FC player beats a Wings FC player for the ball.

A Tan Holdings FC player hits a header.

Tan Holdings FC's Yoshi Mafnas, right, stays on defense against a Wings FC player.

Ortiz hits No. 450, Red Sox beat Yankees, 8-5

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Rose overcomes late mistake at Congressional

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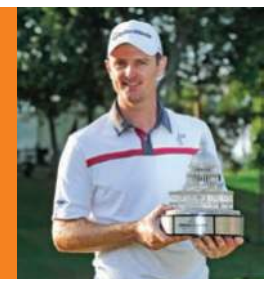

Island Manpower thwarts TBK in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Island Manpower withstood TBK Mechanics' fourth-quarter rally to escape with an 81-78 title win in the 2014 DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Jun Tabora and Cecilio Bisana nailed split free throws in the closing seconds to make up for earlier misses from the foul line to secure the championship for Island Manpower. Tabora and Bisana previously muffed two free throws each, while Pete Lizama also went 0-for-2 from the stripe, keeping TBK's hopes alive.

TBK, which was once behind by 16 points in the fourth canto, 53-69, threatened Island Manpower, 78-79, after Ivan Devero canned a lean-in jumper, with 22.6 seconds left on clock. TBK then gave up a quick foul, sending Tabora back to the 15-foot line and the Island Manpower shooter this time had a split to give his team more breathing room, 80-78.

Tabora missed the second charity and Devero got the rebound, sprinted to their frontcourt, and hurriedly pulled up for a long jumper from the right wing with still 9.7 seconds remaining in the game. He faltered and TBK was forced to commit another foul to stop the clock. Bisana trooped to the free throw area anew and drained his first charity before his second one rattled off the rim. Island Manpower then won the rebound play and did a good job avoiding TBK defenders as time expired.

Bisana top-scored for Island Manpower with his 20 points, while Tabora chipped in 15. They combined for 14 points in the third period where Island Manpower tried to pull away after a close first half. Island Manpower led by as much as 17 in the third canto, 60-43, as it launched a shortt 7-2 rally in the first two minutes of that period and outgunned TBK in the next six minutes, 15-8.

Island Manpower went on to keep the double-digit spread, but TBK remained afloat, cutting the lead to a manageable deficit after an 8-2 wind-up off Devero's 6 points and Nate Mateo's layup, 51-62. The basket late in the third was Mateo's last, as he landed on the wrong foot and left the court limping.

TBK clearly missed Mateo's quarterbacking skills, as the team's offense was in disarray early in the fourth, allowing Island Manpower to open another big lead, 69-53, 7:37 left on the clock. With his team starting to fall apart, Devero took the cudgels for TBK and drew some help from Jake Quitugua and Raymond Velasco in launching a crucial 18-4 spurt in the next five minutes to slice Island Manpower's lead to a deuce, 71-73, 2:39 left in the match.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Island Manpower's Cecilio Bisana goes up for a jump hook against TBK Mechanic's Christian Devero during the fourth quarter of their title game in the DL Corp. caging last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

CNMI unbeaten in Senior League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Senior All-Stars are off to a good start in the 2014 Little League Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament, winning their first two matches in the Philippines.

The Commonwealth bets in the Senior League kicked off their bid in the World Series qualifier with a 15-3 spanking of Indonesia in last Sunday's opener at the Clark Freeport Zone in Zambales. Then yesterday, the Patrick Tenorio-managed squad edged host and defending champion Philippines, 5-4, to take the early lead in the six-team field.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players of the CNMI Senior All-Stars run around the field to warm up for their game against the Philippines in the World Series qualifier yesterday at the Clark Freeport Zone in Zambales, Philippines.

AP

Mexico's Rafael Marquez, left, fouls Netherlands' Arjen Robben inside the penalty box during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between the Netherlands and Mexico at the Arena Castelao in Fortaleza, Brazil, Sunday, June 29, 2014.

Dutch, Costa Ricans advance to quarterfinal match

By JOHN PYE
AP SPORTS WRITER

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Regulation time doesn't seem to mean much at this stage, judging by the way Netherlands, Costa Rica and Brazil have advanced through the first of the World Cup knockout rounds.

The Dutch needed a penalty deep

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